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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I. CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

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IPI DISCUSSES PRESS FREEDOM IN LATIN AMERICA

PY161434 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0134 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 15 May (EFE) -- The International Press Institute (IPI) today stated that Argentina and Uruguay have registered "the most outstanding improvement" in the area of press freedom, while restrictions continue in Chile, Paraguay, and Nicaragua.

The 36th annual IPI conference, which for the first time has met in Latin America, expressed concern over "the dangers that Latin American journalists face, despite the general democratization process in the region."

The institute, which is headed by Spanish journalist Juan Luis Cebrian, director of Madrid's EL PAIS, said that 12 journalists were murdered over the past 12 years. He mentioned the name of Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano, director of Bogota's EL ESPECTADOR.

IPI, which has a membership of some 2,000 editors and journalists from all over the world, decided to hold its conference, which opened on 12 May, in Buenos Aires and Montevideo in order "to mark the outstanding improvement of press freedom in Uruguay and Argentina," the first IPI resolution stated.

The first paragraph of the resolution, which noted press freedom improvement in Haiti, stated that "in a world in which press freedom has been harassed in several places, the IPI expresses its satisfaction over the improvement of press freedom in Latin America."

The situation in Chile and Paraguay "is particularly alarming," while what was left of pluralism has been wiped out in Nicaragua after the closure of LA PRENSA and RADIO CATOLICA, the resolution stated.

The IPI called upon the governments of those three countries to end the repression of freedom of the press, which the organization described as "cruel and anachronistic in the world of today." The IPI stated that "the courage of the Chilean journalists has made it possible to achieve some improvement with recent publications, although they have been pressured by new press and security laws." The IPI resolution specifically mentioned the case of Juan Pablo Cardenas, of ANALASIS magazine, who has been in jail for a year and a half.

Concerning Paraguay, the conference -- which was attended by some 400 delegates -- stated that "the closure of Radio Nanduti wiped out the last sign of independent opinion." The IPI expressed admiration for Colombian Guillermo Cano, who was murdered in December 1986 because of his reports on drug trafficking. [passage indistinct] Latin America overcome its foreign debt problem and ensure its democratization.

The speech by Regis Debrey, former French presidential adviser and former comrade of Ernesto "Che" Guevara [as received], was suspended. Debrey was scheduled to address the conference today.

The IPI decided to meet next year in Istanbul, even though there was a debate on the human rights violations committed by the Turkish Government. During the session in Montevideo, the conference heard two panel discussions: "Human Rights and Communications;" and "Satellites, an Unfulfilled Promise."

PERU'S GARCIA ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL PRESS MEETING

PY160121 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia has been speaking at the conference hall in Montevideo for more than 1/2 hour. Addressing the participants of the International Press Institute [IPI] meeting, who are completely filling the spacious hall, the visiting chief executive apologized for his delay, which was caused by a strike being held by the Peruvian police, a strike that cast doubts on his visit to Montevideo.

President Garcia was met at the Carrasco International Airport by Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti, with whom he spoke during their trip to downtown Montevideo.

We will supply a brief portion of the beginning of Peruvian President Alan Garcia's speech.

[Begin Garcia recording] Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I beg your pardon for this delay, for the delay in arriving for this appointment. I am late, but I finally came despite the fact that I have urgent administrative and political problems in my country. I have come, however, because I can distinguish urgent issues from important issues. I will solve the urgent issues. Important indeed is a democracy in which freedom of the press flourishes. Thus, I have come to greet this assembly, which is the most important of your meetings, and tell you about our commitment, despite the huge and urgent difficulties, to continue building a civilized democracy that features a broad and unrestricted freedom of the press and freedom of expression. [end recording]

As soon as his speech ends, Garcia will again go to the Carrasco International Airport to fly back to his country where he will have to handle the urgent and important problems that he mentioned in his speech.

Ends Visits, Returns Home

PY160242 Paris AFP in Spanish 0236 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 15 May (AFP) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia tonight left for Lima after closing the 36th General Assembly of the International Press Institute. (IPI).

Garcia left Uruguay after a 4-hour visit that was devoted entirely to addressing the IPI meeting, where he made an urgent call for nonviolence in his country.

FEBRES CORDERO PRAISES CARTAGENA DOCUMENT

PA141449 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Today we end a phase of almost 18 years of frustrated expectations and many valuable proposals, which nevertheless yielded to formidable obstacles. This was stated by President Leon Febres Cordero during the signing of the protocol modifying the Cartagena Agreement or Andean Group in the Hall of Presidents at the National Palace. The ceremony was attended by the Cabinet, the plenipotentiary ministers who signed the protocol, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Ecuador, representatives of the Armed Forces and National Police, members of the foreign and national press, and numerous special guests.

[Begin Febres Cordero recording] Many had the courage that is characteristic of honest men to express their frank admonition. They were not in any way opposed to the integrationist ideals demanded by authentic solidarity, the swift passage of history, economic development, and technology. Instead, they were opposed to the deficiencies which were undermining the vigorous fervor of the great proposal for economic complementation that emerged from the most brilliant roots of the past and that was demanded by the vital need of the people who correctly demand employment, dignity, and real prospects for improvement. There were many who spoke out, and struggled to make this auspicious moment possible. [end recording]

In conclusion, President Febres Cordero stressed the fact that the document was signed in Quito where political freedom emerged and where integral liberation should emerge. He also emphasized that this ceremony took place only a few days after the extraordinary linking of the Colombian and Ecuadoran oil pipelines. He said that above any other consideration, it is evident the integrationist mechanism must be a decisive tool so that we will be faithful to Bolivar who said we could not rest until we created the perfect government system. One which produces the greatest happiness, greatest social security, and greatest political stability.

Minister Noboa Explains Protocol

PA141515 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 May 87

[Broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...the structure and basic principles of the Cartagena Agreement, a practical outline of the modifying protocol was achieved. Its main characteristics were summarized in the document that was signed by the plenipotentiary ministers of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. The presence of the Andean parliament in the institutional framework of the Cartagena Agreement embodies the political and legal dimension of the integration process. The decision to effectively incorporate the region's private business and labor sectors in the Andean integration system through the consultative business and labor councils is explicit acknowledgment that their role as active and important participants in the programs is essential for the achievement of the goals of integration.

The protocol modifying the Cartagena Agreement includes the following aspects, which were summarized by Ecuadoran Industries Minister Ricardo Noboa Bejarano:

[Begin Noboa recording] 1. The relaunching of the Andean Group. 2. The establishment of clear and stable rules of the game for the productive sectors which are definitely the prime movers of the integration process. 3. Through the adoption of this protocol, the Andean Group will again have its own clear identity in the multinational organizations. 4. The incorporation of the Andean Parliament, the Andean Court of Justice, and the Andean business and labor consultative councils strengthens the Cartagena Agreement and establishes a new institutional structure in accordance with the needs of the member countries. 5. The inclusion of a chapter on economic and social cooperation gives the Cartagena Agreement an overtone different from that which it had in the past. [end recording]

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PASSES DUE OBEDIENCE BILL

PY172022 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 May 87 pp 1, 15

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Lower House yesterday approved the controversial Due Obedience Bill after 13 hours of debate. The proposal would free lower-ranking military and police officers from prosecution on charges of human rights violations.

The Senate is expected to debate the bill on Wednesday when left-wing political groups, labour unions, and human rights organizations plan to protest outside Congress to demand punishment for all officers guilty of human rights violations.

The 115-59 vote (and four abstentions) followed speeches by 37 deputies on the bill which President Raul Alfonsin presented last Wednesday, less than a month after a military rebellion against human rights trials sparked the worst military crisis since the constitutional government took office in December 1983.

All serving military officers who are currently indicted in human rights trials would automatically be freed from prosecution if the bill is passed by the Senate next week.

The proposal was approved by the Radical, Corrientes Autonomist, Salta Renewalist, San Juan Bloquista, and Mendoza Democratic parties together with the Jujuy and Catamarca Popular Movements, and the October 17 faction of the Peronist bloc.

Radical Deputies Juan Bautista Bellarrinaga (Buenos Aires), Norberto Copello (Buenos Aires), and Jorge Stolkiner (Cordoba) voted against the proposal while four other Radicals abstained.

The Renewal Peronist caucus, the Intransigent and Christian Democratic Parties, the Neuquen Popular Movement, the Movement for Integration and Development, and the Democratic Centre Union voted against the bill.

Intransigent Deputy Oscar Alende (Buenos Aires) opposed the bill because "we should punish those who repeatedly violated the Constitution if we want social peace."

Christian Democratic Deputy Carlos Auyero (Buenos Aires) warned that the bill's approval "would force us to co-exist with criminals" and called for the "full intervention of justice."

Deputy Maria Julia Alsogarey (UCeDe-Capital) [Democratic Center Union] opposed the bill on the grounds that "many of its beneficiaries will not accept the principles on which the proposal is inspired."

Renewal Peronist Deputy Jose Luis Manzano (Mendoza) asked "what would happen if we don't pass the bill, would there be a coup d'etat? I think nothing would happen," he said.

Manzano pointed out that "we are playing with Medieval situation, although ethically beneath the Middle Ages, with hangmen who are proud to be so."

Lower House Majority Leader Cesar Jaroslavsky (Radical-Entre Rios) said "it is our duty to take this step" toward a solution to the crisis and referring to the opposition he added "we do not ask to be congratulated but rather understood."

When the bill was voted and approved at 1:56 am, a group of Mothers of Plaza de Mayo who were following the debate from the balconies began shouting slogans against the Radical deputies. The police intervened when Jaroslavsky shouted "arrest them."

Reliable sources yesterday revealed the Renewal Peronist caucus had offered Alfonsin to lift the Due Obedience Bill to "avoid paying the full political cost" of the measure.

The initiative was reportedly discussed with Radical Deputies Marcelo Stubrin and Federico Storani during a recess in the congressional debate last Friday night.

Alfonsin was informed of the offer by midnight that night and reportedly decided to keep the bill in Congress.

The Renewal Peronist offer included a commitment to support in Congress the new defense bill and any Radical proposals on military reform.

The contact between Radical and Renewal Peronist legislators was the result of a "certain unpleasantness" noticed amongst Radical deputies after Manzano's and De la Sota's speeches. According to the sources, many Radical legislators had then expressed their desire to vote against the proposal.

The situation prompted the intervention of Jaroslavsky, who called for "strict party discipline."

It was later revealed that the Renewal Peronist offer had the backing of "other blocs," although no parties were mentioned.

GENERAL CARIDI REPORTEDLY OPPOSES OBEDIENCE BILL

PY151556 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1306 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 15 May (NA) -- According to newspaper reports in this city, Army Joint Chief of Staff General Jose Luis Caridi opposes the Due Obedience Bill the executive branch submitted to Congress, contending that as long as "a distinction is made between colonels and lieutenant colonels, the wounds will not heal, they will reopen."

The newspaper LA NUEVA PROVINCIA reported today that Gen Caridi stated his position at a meeting of military commanders yesterday in Buenos Aires.

The same newspaper says that the bill sent to Congress by the executive branch "did not satisfy the Joint Staff commanders of the Army and the Navy."

The newspaper reports that Gen Caridi called a meeting with the commanders of the Buenos Aires garrison to tell them that the joint chief of staff "could not quietly accept a law where a distinction is made between malefactors and nonmalefactors on the basis of rank during the process of national reorganization" [military government during 1976-83 period].

The same item states that "in fact, Gen Caridi believes that as long as a distinction is made between retired and active-duty personnel or between colonels and lieutenant colonels, the wounds will not heal, but will reopen."

It adds that congressional circles have learned that "high-ranking officers of the services' joint staffs have expressed concern over the situation of inequality before the law, assessing responsibility of the basis of rank."

Finally, LA NUEVA PROVINCIA indicates that a paragraph will be added to Article 1 of the Due Obedience Bill, stating that the legal presumption "of compliance with the due obedience rule will apply to high-ranking officers, unless evidence can be presented that they imparted specific orders that resulted in the commission of crimes."

UCR SENATOR NAPOLI DENIES MILITARY DEMANDS

PY152233 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2024 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (TELAM) -- Senator Antonio Napoli today denied that he mentioned the existence of military demands to approve the Due Obedience Bill in Congress.

Napoli explained that it is his duty to listen to all sectors, which does not mean accepting demands but harmonizing general interests through better laws.

Napoli stated that his comments to a radio station in Cordoba were misinterpreted, and he made it clear that the standard is to meet the overall demands of society with a view toward achieving peace and unity. This is what the people voted for in 1983.

In a communique released this afternoon by the press office of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] bloc in the Senate, Napoli states: As a lawmaker, the only demands that I accept are those of the people who voted for me.

RADICAL LEADER DENIES MILITARY PRESSURE

PY151610 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (NA) -- Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky, leader of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, denied that pressure is being exerted by the Armed Forces on the government to consider the draft bill on the Due Obedience Law.

Questioned by NA about a comment by Antonio Napoli, leader of the UCR bloc in the Senate, that the Armed Forces are anxious about the discussion of this draft bill, Jaroslavsky answered: "If Senator Napoli knows any pressure he should report it, but I reject such charges." He added that "the only pressure is for the consolidation of democracy." Jaroslavsky said: "The Armed Forces have the right to give their opinion, and I deny that pressure is being exerted."

BILL SETTING 'RESPONSIBILITY BY DUTY,' NOT RANK, EYED

PY150359 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0003 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 May (NA) -- The deterioration of the Armed Forces' image as a consequence of the trials against higher-ranking officers, despite the fact that mid-ranking officers will be exonerated for any acts of repression, is one of the points that has allegedly caused "dissatisfaction" among the Army and Navy officers in view of the Due Obedience Bill currently being discussed in Congress.

A source of the Armed Forces -- who on several occasions has voiced his opinion to the government -- has stated that an initiative that would establishing responsibility "by duties" performed during the struggle against subversion instead of "by rank" would have been preferable.

The reliable spokesman revealed that a state secretariat had indeed submitted a bill that did, precisely that; established responsibilities according to functions performed during those years. In other words, the chiefs in charge of the military "zones" in which the country was divided would be brought to trial, regardless of their rank.

However, this bill was rejected by another state body for "philosophical reasons." These charges were refuted by the author of the bill who stated that "those who claim to know a lot about philosophy know nothing about men," thus revealing his belief that a due obedience law that establishes responsibilities by "rank" and not by "duty" could generate "dissatisfactions."

The military spokesman voiced (?his opinion) that people should be brought to trial for their duties because there were many lieutenant generals who were "area chiefs" -- thus having a direct participation in the antisubversive struggle -- and these officers will now be exonerated.

On the other hand, there were colonels who held (?subordinate) posts in the antisubversive struggle but who will [as received] benefit from the due obedience. However, the president's message to Congress that accompanies the bill literally states: "Regarding higher rank officers... that in each case it should be determined whether they exercised true command and decisionmaking power to a necessary extent to participate in the formulation of general orders or exercise a function that may have allowed them to become a source of illegal orders enjoying some autonomy. In other words, whether or not they participated in the creation of separate plans [planes contribuyents] or made decisions about their implementation."

However, the officer that made these remarks, stated that in his opinion "the best thing would have been for the due obedience law to exonerate any rank below chief of subzone." The chiefs of subzones during those years were brigade commanders; that is, generals and colonels. If that line of thinking had been followed, only the corps commanders and commanders in chief would have been held responsible.

Regarding the current circumstances created by the bill that is being discussed by the Chamber of Deputies, the source stated that this initiative simply "transfers the responsibility for the crime," and will not prevent the "deterioration of the Armed Forces' image" which is something that the military "will not accept."

In the same vein, the source stated that "self-criticism can be made about the Malvinas war or the economic policy developed by the military government, but not about the actions during the war against subversion."

Regarding the "feeling" of the military, the sources denied the existence of "personal leaderships" that control the rest of the cadres, but noted that what "unites wills is the desire to put an end to the trials."

The following questions apply to those "undefined" areas: What will happen to the arrested high-ranking officers when the legal proceedings against their subordinates are suspended? Will those subordinate officers report to court when they are summoned to testify in cases involving charges against their former commanders? What is the definition of the concept of "complicity"?

Several sources have noted that the law [words indistinct] the court summons and the legal proceeding against them. They said, however, that the continuation of the trials will not end the deterioration of the Armed Forces' image, which is one of the aspects about which most officers have been permanently concerned. Military sources have said that this deterioration can be stopped if antisubversive actions are understood. On the basis of this understanding they talk about "pacification" or "national reconciliation," even though they did not mention an amnesty law. Moreover, government officials admitted that any type of law other than amnesty may have its loopholes, but this would be solved if "from every angle -- legislators, judges, and parties -- understand that it is necessary to solve the military problem."

COURT ORDERS LA RAZON TO RESUME PUBLISHING

PY152002 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 May 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Commercial Judge Hector Foiguel Lopez yesterday ordered the publishers of the newspaper LA RAZON to take immediate measures aimed at the reappearance of the afternoon edition of the paper, which had asked for a creditors' meeting to ensure that it could continue its activities. The editorial offices of the paper continued occupied yesterday by its personnel to press demands for the reinstatement of 350 workers fired when the morning edition of the paper folded earlier this month, as well as the payment of back wages.

The newspaper blamed the personnel for the non-appearance of the afternoon editions and said it was willing to attend mandatory negotiations ordered by the Labour Ministry. The judge also asked the Labour Ministry to appoint overseers to check that the paper carry out his orders.

Owner Agrees to Order

PY162040 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 May 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The publisher of the newspaper LA RAZON yesterday agreed to again publish the morning edition of the paper during the period of enforcement of a Labour Ministry's order of mandatory negotiations in order to ensure the publication of the paper's two evening editions. The measure, signed by publisher Jose Pirillo before Judge Hector Foiguel Lopez, sought to end a strike by the personnel of the evening editions who have been staging a sit-in at the paper's editorial offices to demand the reinstatement of 350 workers fired when the morning edition folded last week. The newspaper, which earlier this month announced it would expand its editions on the basis of a sharp increase in advertising and circulation, had asked Foiguel Lopez for a meeting of its creditors to avoid the ceasing of all its editions because of insolvency. The judge on Thursday ordered the newspaper to adopt measures to ensure the publication of its two evening editions and asked the Labour Ministry to appoint overseers to see that the measures were carried out.

Despite Pirillo's decision yesterday the UTPBA [expansion unknown] Buenos Aires press union asked President Raul Alfonsin and Labour Minister Carlos Alderete to personally intervene to avoid the folding of all three editions of the 82-year-old newspaper. The union leadership also said it would remain permanently within the newspaper's editorial offices to guarantee the jobs of its staff and avoid "manoeuvres" by its publishers which could harm the workers. The union said in a communique, issued after a massive three-hour meeting of its members in front of the newspaper's offices, that it would also stage a 24-hour strike on a still undetermined day to protest against the dismissal of the 350 workers.

MONTHLY INFLATION RATE HITS RECORD HIGH

PY160137 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The inflation rate reached 20.96 percent in April, a record high since the national price index system began operating in March (?1969). The directorate of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics [IBGE], which today released this information, reported that house rentals -- classified as a housing sector variable for estimating the consumer price index -- were the heaviest burden for families with an income of up to 5 minimum salaries.

The expanded consumer price index, which reflects the expenses of a family earning between 1 and 30 minimum salaries, reached the high rate of 19.1 percent, under the burden of [word indistinct], health, and personal expenses.

The IBGE reported that among the larger cities, Belo Horizonte registered the highest inflation rate, as opposed to Salvador and Belem, where the rates were lowest.

The accumulated inflation rate in the January-April period thus reached 84.19 percent, on the basis of the consumer price index, and 76.74 percent, on the basis of the expanded consumer price index.

AIR FORCE TO PURCHASE CHILEAN, FRENCH PLANES

PY161907 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 May 87 p 6

[By Rio de Janeiro O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO offices]

[Text] The Ministry of Aeronautics has reported that negotiations with Chile for the purchase of F-5 supersonic fighter planes are under way. The negotiations, which are being conducted by a commission headed by Materiel Director Brigadier General Lair de Andrade, are aimed at purchasing 13 F-5E single-seat and 3 F-5E two-seat fighters. The information, published by O ESTADO and later denied by the Chilean Air Force in Santiago, is thus confirmed.

The FAB [Brazilian Air Force] has also concluded its negotiations for the purchase of 6 single-seat and 2 two-seat Mirages with French financing. The new Mirages are intended for the 1st Air Defense Group headquartered in Anapolis, Goiais State.

According to the Ministry of Aeronautics, the purchase of the F-5's and the Mirages does not constitute a modernization of the force but rather what pilots call "reequipping," or replacement of lost airplanes.

The Ministry of Aeronautics High Command has also decided to support the program of the TX, the new Brazilian military airplane, which is a transition aircraft aimed at training FAB officers to handle very sophisticated fighter planes. According to the High Command, the new planes should become operational at the beginning of the next decade. The aircraft will be able to fly at supersonic speeds, but it will basically operate as a subsonic airplane. The design of the plane will require an investment of $20 million while its production will cost $5 to $6 billion.

Navy Minister Henrique Saboia has revealed that the Navy has already called for bids to build the first Brazilian research ship to be used for the scientific survey of the Brazilian continental shelf. Saboia added that the ministry has also called for bids for the construction of medium-size patrol boats and a naval squadron tanker. "We are also building four corvettes, four patrol boats and four patrol ships. We will have four new IKL-209 1,400 submarines. The first one is under construction in the FRG and the other three will be built in the Navy Arsenals," the Minister concluded.

Nuclebras [Brazilian Nuclear Corporation] subsidiary Nuclep [Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc.] will participate in the construction of the three submarines. The first steps for a Brazilian-made nuclear submarine in the 1990's, though, will be taken by the Navy Engineering Directorate. The minister said that a good part of the project is already possible with the available nuclear technology. The prototype will start to be manufactured in Sorocaba (Sao Paulo State).

PERU ORDERS 20 TUCANO AIRCRAFT FOR TRAINING

PY151944 Paris AFP in Spanish 1008 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 15 May (AFP) -- Peru has recently ordered from Brazil 20 single-engine Tucano turboprop planes for training and antiguerrilla warfare, according to the manufacturing company EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company].

The $32-million contract was signed last month, but was kept secret by request of the Peruvian Government, which is also a weapons customer of France and the Soviet Union, a reliable source reported.

EMBRAER Director Ozilio Carlos da Silva has stated that this contract with Peru is very important and represents a recognition of the quality of the Tucano, since Peru is known to have always used very modern aircraft in its Air Force.

Da Silva added that this contract, in addition to the purchase of 130 more by Great Britain for its Air Force, will serve as good publicity for these planes.

He added that the first four units have already been delivered to the Peruvian Air Force in the beginning of this month.

BRIEFS

BOLIVIAN COCAINE, TRAFFICKERS SEIZED -- The Federal police have seized 360 kg of cocaine in Sao Paulo worth $4.5 million. This is the largest cocaine shipment ever seized in Brazil. The drug was transported from Beni Department in Bolivia on a small single-engine Cessna. The plane left Beni Department, flew over Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia, entered Brazil through Porto Velho, flew over Rondonopolies in Matto Grosso State, and landed in Sao Paulo. The Federal police believe the cocaine would have been transported directly to Miami on the same plane. The pilot's name is (Jose Luiz Avive), a Brazilian citizen with a drug-trafficking record. Also involved are Miguel Angel Siles Landa and Pablo Iriarte, two Bolivian citizens tied to Bolivian drug trafficking boss Flores, and Alfredo Mario Mingola, an Argentine citizen. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 15 May 87 PY]

PRESIDENT BARCO ANNOUNCES CABINET CHANGES

PA172342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2321 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Bogota, 17 May (EFE) -- The Press Secretariat of the Presidency has confirmed that Colombian President Virgilio Barco reshuffled his Cabinet this afternoon.

The changes affect the communications, justice, education, development, finance, and government ministers.

The ministers who will leave their posts are Justice Minister Eduardo Suescun, Economic Development Minister Miguel Merino, and Public Education Minister Marina Uribe.

The new ministers are: Fernando Cepeda, formerly the government minister, has now become communications minister; Edmundo Lopez, formerly the communications minister, is the new justice minister; Cesar Gaviria, formerly the finance minister, is the new government minister.

In addition, Antonio Yepes, former governor of Antioquia Department, has been appointed education minister; Fuad Char, former government of Atlantico Department, was named economic development minister; and Luis Fernando Alarcon, former deputy finance minister, will be the new finance minister.

The official announcement did not mention why President Virgilio Barco -- who assumed his post in August 1986 -- is making this second change in his Cabinet.

The first Cabinet changes occurred in March, when the health and labor ministers were replaced.

FARC SEEKS 'DIRECT TALKS' WITH PRESIDENT BARCO

PA181859 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 May 87 pp 1, 8-a

[Excerpt] The self-styled FARC has sent an explosive letter to President Virgilio Barco Vargas stating that FARC "has never signed a truce with the military forces or its organizations of hired gunmen." In its letter, FARC also demanded direct talks with President Barco concerning this and other issues.

However, FARC did not specify whether President Barco should go to "Casa Verde" to meet "Tirofijo" [alias of FARC leader Manuel Marulanda Velez] or whether a commission of the rebel group would visit the president at Narino House.

In a clear reference to recent incidents in Barrancabermeja, where a minor who witnessed an attack against UP [Patriotic Union] members was killed, FARC warned Barco that he can either strengthen peace through these talks, or "open new paths for war."

The subversive group has threatened to accompany the people whenever they decided to fight againt militarism and they invite FARC to join the fight.

The note, signed in "the Colombian mountains" by FARC leaders Manuel Marulanda Velez ("Tirofijo"), Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, Raul Reyes, and Timoleon Jimenez, textually reads:

"In the last few days, the escalation of terrorism by militarism has acquired new and more evil forms. The hired assassins who live, eat, and receive their paychecks at the garrisons, battalions, and brigades not only satisfy their murderous instincts on unarmed UP members, but also on elderly people and children.

"Mr President, ours is a society where people are dying from hunger; are without homes, land, work, or public liberties; where communists, UP members, Liberals, Democratic Conservatives, women, and children are killed indiscriminately by military criminal actions. Do you believe, Mr President, that people such as ours, who have waged a thousand battles for freedom, will remain passively drowning in blood very long?

"Do you not believe, Mr President, that the day will come when those who could stop the bloodshed in the country -- but have said nothing out of cowardice or because they do not hold the power granted to them by the national Constitution -- will be asked by the people in arms to answer for their actions?

"We, FARC, have never signed a truce with militarism or with its organization of hired assassins, and this should be clear at this moment, Mr President.

"All in all, we believe that a people such as ours, who since 1946 have been stricken by violence and terrorism stemming from the gringo security doctrine, should follow the example of the great people of Barrancabermeja and start waging a battle for the right to life and democracy. We, Mr President, are ready to accompany our people whenever they decide to rebel against militarism.

"We would like, Mr President, to hold direct talks with you on these subjects, which could strengthen peace, or open new paths for war. You, as head of state, must decide." [passage omitted]

UP FILES CHARGES AGAINST MILITARY ON KILLINGS

PA160130 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 May 87

[Report by Ricardo Canon]

[Text] Jaime Pardo Leal, president of the UP National Coordinating Board, today ratified with the Attorney General's Office his charges that Army and police members were involved in the killings of UP members in various parts of the country. Pardo Leal said he will present a veritable deluge of evidence to substantiate his charges. It will be a parade of witnesses, he said.

Regarding the remarks and clarifications made by Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina, Pardo Leal said that the minister's defense of the accused soldiers was premature and that he had acted as judge and jury.

[Begin recording] [Canon] Everything appears to indicate that the reports you presented last Friday contained many irregularities. Names did not match. What happened? Did the UP's intelligence fail?

[Pardo] No. The documents are absolutely clear and the charges are very specific. The problem is that the defense minister prematurely defended something indefensible. He had only 10 hours to study our documents, reports, and charges. However, we have a truly startling abundance of evidence for each case. [end recording]

Today Pardo Leal presented a writ challenging the competence of Major General Antonio Gonzalez Prado, judge advocate, to prevent him from continuing hearings on the administrative acts [accion administrativa] against the military implicated by the UP charges.

REPORT NOTES RECENT NATIONWIDE VIOLENCE

PA151739 Paris AFP in Spanish 0238 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Bogota, 13 May (AFP) -- A clash between squatters and police forces today left 20 civilians and 2 policemen dead. Meanwhile, a police inspector and three businessmen were killed in various areas of the country.

Rodrigo Pimiento, governor of the Caribbean Department of Magdalena said that according to the most recent reports, 20 civilians and 2 uniformed men were killed during a clash between the police and a group of peasants trying to occupy land within Hacienda La Pola in this area of the country.

Pimiento pointed out that extremist elements apparently infiltrated the group of 40 peasants who arrived at the farm and burned three tractors, among other things. He added that an investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, a businessman was shot on a street in downtown Bogota. Jewelry valued at 2 million pesos (about $10,000) and a pistol were found on him. The murderer fled quickly before the incredulous and powerless stares of numerous pedestrians.

Meanwhile, in the southwestern department of Valle del Cauca, Oscar Escobar, police inspector of El Llanito corregimiento, was murdered in his own office by three men who fled.

In addition, to radio station owners were killed by hired assassins in isolated incidents in the western department of Risaralda.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES ANNOUNCED -- The Colombian Government has appointed Mario Laserna Pinzon as its new ambassador to Austria, replacing Alfonso Orduz Duarte. In addition, it was confirmed that Colombian Ambassador to Uruguay Ramiro Andrade Teran has resigned. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 May 87 p 7-A PA]

ALTERNATE DEPUTY VIEWS U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE

PA151741 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The presence of U.S. reserve troops in Ecuador must be viewed objectively and the situation should be treated with responsibility for the good of the country. This statement was made to Voz de los Andes by [Retired] General (Richelible Boyer), an alternate deputy of the Concentration of Popular Forces Party.

[Begin (Boyer) recording] I believe our country will benefit from the construction of an important road that will solve problems for approximately 100,000 people in Napo Province, who currently have no means of communication and no road on which to transport their products.

We also have to acknowledge that the personnel who have arrived are National Guard units; that is, they are not on active military service. They have brought their own vehicles for road construction work. According to the papers they have apparently come with much construction material and equipment.

It has not been reported that they have come armed, and U.S. Ambassador Rondon has clearly stated they have not come with arms. Based on what we objectively know, these U.S. personnel have come to build a road that will greatly help our country, especially Napo Province, at this very difficult moment.

Another fact is that these National Guardsmen are acquiring experience in a jungle area that cannot be found in the United States. [end recording]

Court To Analyze Presence

PA170218 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The Court of Constitutional Guarantees will request the necessary documents to examine the constitutional rights on which the government based its decision to allow the arrival of 6,000 U.S. reserve forces in the eastern sector Ecuador.

The court has asked the defense and foreign relations ministers to send the necessary documents to analyze the section referring to the constitutional articles which allow the U.S. military forces' presence in the country.

GUNMAN THWARTED IN ATTACK ON VARGAS PAZZOS

PA170240 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] General Frank Vargas Pazzos, former chief of the Ecuadoran Air Force and current presidential candidate, was the object of an attack today, his press secretariat announced. Vargas' attacker was detained by his personal guards. Meanwhile, Vargas' presidential campaign secretariat claimed that it was a criminal attack demonstrating a desire to prevent Gen Vargas from reaching the presidency.

The general's attacker, Gualberto Duran, is a member of the Army, according to the police report. Duran, who is a member of the Logistical Support Headquarters, 13th Engineer Corps, tried to shoot Vargas while he was at a political meeting in support of his presidential candidacy for the elections scheduled for January, but Duran was detained by the general's security personnel.

According to the police report by policeman [name indistinct], Duran is a soldier on active duty who was drunk at the time of his thwarted attack. He was taken to the temporary detention center at the Garcia Moreno penitentiary in the Ecuadoran capital, and from there was transferred upon orders from the military police. In statements to Radio Quito, Gen Vargas blamed President Leon Febres Cordero's government for this attack and: anything that may happen to me or my family.

BRIEFS

VENEZUELA LOANS OIL -- Official sources reported that the agreement to loan Venezuelan crude oil to Ecuador to help meet the latter's international commitments had its marketing system changed with Venezuela taking over the sale of Ecuador's quota through its own buyers. The problem is due to the official price for Venezuelan crude oil, which now averages $16.40 a barrel, depending on the different types of light and heavy crude involved. The price structure did not allow oil shipments from the Curacao refineries to continue. It was learned that Venezuela could not meet purchasers' requirements because its own oil is sold on the same market where the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation markets the oil at the official price of $16.40, which would have caused difficulties with Gulf of Mexico clients. There was no need to draft a new agreement with Venezuela. Instead, slight changes were made to the original agreement. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 May 87 PA]

REPORT ON 16 MAY LIMA POLICE STRIKE, MILITARY ROLE

Military Assumes Patrols

PY160313 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0032 GMT 16 May 87

[Excerpts] Lima, 15 May (EFE) -- Military forces today patrolled some areas of Lima as a consequence of a strike by an important sector of the Lima police force demanding better salaries. This strike delayed a visit President Alan Garcia was to make to Uruguay.

The strike is taking place 1 day before the seventh anniversary of the Maoist Shining Path group and before a "national strike" organized for Tuesday, 19 May, by the communist General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP).

The military joint command, formed by all the Armed Forces, was placed in charge of safeguarding public order. This was disclosed to the media by President Alan Garcia who noted that "the situation is normal"

Although there are no precise figures on the amount of support the strike has, unofficial figures estimate that almost half the personnel of the Lima police forces have observed the measure.

According to the unofficial versions, most Lima police stations remained closed and guarded by the military while policemen and their families marched toward Congress.

The Lima prefecture (civil government) asserted that no increased incidents have been registered as a result of the situation.

Approximately 1,000 policemen gathered this morning at the Plaza Italia and demanded they be received by Interior Minister Abel Salinas to inform him of their salary demands. The policeman demand a monthly salary increase of 3,500 intis (some $150) and a similar amount for being exposed to danger.

Alan Garcia said that Armed Forces patrols had been mobilized to safeguard tranquillity [passage indistinct].

According to police reports, no police strikes were registered in other parts of the country except for Chiclayo, northern Peru, where police sources disclosed that they were carrying out a "sit down" strike.

The Peruvian police forces total some 80,000 men, including the Civil Guard, the largest unit, the Republican Guard, and the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP).

Garcia said that his government will exhaust "all necessary measures" to solve the problem and made an appeal for policemen to understand the economic crisis that the country is facing. [passage omitted]

Policeman Interviewed

PY161338 Lima RBC Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] A partial stoppage of Civil Guard personnel was staged today in Lima. Police troops held rallies and stoppages at some police stations. Activity was normal in Lima, however, thus demonstrating the maturity of the people.

[Begin relay from downtown Lima] [Reporter] We are now at the intersection of Alfonso Duarte Avenue and Bolivia Street. A confrontation took place here a few minutes ago between officers and subordinates of the Civil Guards. According to unofficial reports, police troops threw tear gas grenades at the officers, who restricted traffic on this avenue. Police are trying to carry out their protest inside the building.

[Unidentified policeman] I am a policeman, gentlemen.

[Reporter] What are your demands?

[Policeman] Our demands include a basic salary, gentlemen; a basic salary to survive hunger. We also have other demands that all Peruvian workers deserve.

[Reporter] Is this a temporary or indefinite strike?

[Policeman] Well, it will depend on events.

[Reporter] So far the Civil Guards are the most active in adopting this extreme coercive measure. Have the Republican Guards and the PIP joined the strike?

[Policeman] Yes. The PIP and the Republican Guards have also joined the strike. The fact is that they are fewer in number than us and they easily passed unnoticed. [end relay] [end recording]

Government Names Negotiator

PY162126 Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Lima, 16 May (AFP) -- Police Sergeant Nelson Pastrana, a representative of the striking Peruvian policemen, has said that approximately 100,000 policemen this afternoon joined the indefinite strike which until now has been limited to a few Civil Guard stations.

The government has appointed Congressmen Guillermo Larco and Walter Cuestas as its representatives to seek points of agreement with the representatives of the policemen. In the meantime, military patrols have kbeen preserving public order in the main Peruvian cities.

Further Report

PY162236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Lima, 16 May (EFE) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia today stated that he is determined to solve the partial strike called by Lima policemen "without shedding blood," an authoritative Interior Ministry source has told EFE.

Garcia has appointed Congressmen Guillermo Larco Cox and Walter Cuestas, of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA], to negotiate with the strikers. According to the Interior Ministry, less than 1,000 policemen from the three Peruvian security forces are striking. Garcia has ordered the Armed Forces to guard key areas of the capital. Since yesterday, the Armed Forces have been surrounding the three police buildings where the strikers are staying and have been guarding foreign embassies.

The Interior Ministry spokesman told EFE that nearly 600 policemen, out of the total of nearly 10,000 policemen serving in Lima, have revolted in two precincts. He added that small groups of armed, masked officers have hijacked buses and have been cruising the streets of Lima "to force" other policemen to join the strike.

Members of the three Peruvian police forces -- the Republican Guard, the Civil Guard, and the Investigative Police -- on 15 May called a strike to demand a salary increase of approximately $300 monthly and other benefits.

The spokesman, who ruled out the possibility of violent military action similar to that of 1975, said: "It is the government's desire not to endanger the life of any policeman." The source said: "That was a dictatorial government (of General Juan Velasco Alvarado) which, instead of holding talks, used violence. Our democratic government will hold talks."

The government spokesman stated that the strike is being observed only in Lima. He thus denied press reports that the strike is being observed to some extent in four other cities.

The government has charged leftist congressmen with "instigating" the police strike, which is being held a few days before 18 May, which will mark the seventh anniversary of the start of the armed struggle by the Shining Path, and of a general strike called for 19 May by the communist General Confederation of the Workers of Peru.

Garcia Views Situation

PY161705 Lima RBC Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 May 87

[Remarks by President Alan Garcia on 15 May, place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] As you know, this morning I was supposed to leave at 0700 for Montevideo to fulfill a mission very important for Peru: to explain Peru's internal situation nad the economic situation, and to defend our foreign debt policy before more than 400 directors of newspapers, magazines, and television stations from throughout the world. This is very important for Peru because of the economic repercussions it represents for us. The country's image has been tarnished and damaged by events that took place in the fatherland.

I have delayed this trip due to the events with which you are all familiar. This morning more than 100 Civil Guards from the 42d Precinct located on Alfonso Ugarte and Bolivia Avenues refused to fulfill their duties, in an attitude of open disobedience. In other places, such as Plaza Italia, another incident took place at the (?36th) Precinct). This situation, fortunately, has already been solved.

The government will take all necessary measures, disuasive and peaceful ones, to solve the problem. In the situation we are now experiencing, we admit that the police, the Civil Guards, play an important and essential role in society. It is not our intention to punish harshly or hastily, or to attack the Civil Guard. This must be clearly established.

I have also ordered through the joint command, Armed Forces troops to be deployed 200 meters from the 42d Precinct to prevent demonstrators or other people intending to disrupt order from reaching the 42d Precinct. The troops only objective will be to prevent people from disrupting order. So, by no means are we going to order an attack on the 42d Precinct by Army troops, as was reported by some newspapers and radio stations.

After taking these measures and confirming that public order and police activity in Lima and other parts of the country are normal, we will maintain public order with patrols from the Armed Forces, whose only objective will be to help maintain public order. When all these measures are adopted, I am going to fulfill in Montevideo a commitment we have assumed, because otherwise, in view of the police incident in Lima, the international image of our country might be seriously distorted and damaged. We would be in the news not only for electric towers being blown up and murders being committed be terrorists, but for problems which, not fully explained, would create the impression that Lima is like Beirut, Lebanon, and that we are in a total war, one against the other.

We must defend our country's image because this image also has economic repercussions domestically and internationally. For this reason, after adopting these measures, and guaranteeing that there will be no more coercive measures, I am leaving for Montevideo. I have already asked for a postponement of the closing ceremony there. I will be traveling for 4 hours on the plane. I will then deliver a speech explaining the situation in Peru, to prevent the distortion of the image through incorrect information in the press. After speaking, perhaps for 1 hour or more, I will return to Peru.

[Reporter] What time will you be leaving for Montevideo, Mr President?

[Garcia] I will be leaving soon, and I hope to be back, God willing, before 1000. Thank you. I want to tell you, and through you, to tell all Civil Guards and members of the PIP and of the Republican Guards, that the government takes them into account, that they represent a bulwark and a bastion against terrorism and delinquency. We understand their difficult task. For this reason, although the salaries and wages are not as high as we really would like them to be, we have been gradually increasing them -- to the extent possible.

In order to be able to increase the salaries to the level we want them to be, especiallly for those who are bearing the brunt of the responsibility at this moment of difficulty in Peru, we are reorganizing our public financing. We are trying to progressively improve the situation of those who should be paid the most in Peru by redistributing state resources, which have been concentrated in very few hands in some state enterprises. No one can deny that we are trying to improve the image of the police forces first, by reorganizing them; second, by improving, little by little, the purchasing power of their salaries; and third, by beginning a process of rationalization, of better using our resources, channeling them toward the large groups that depend on the state, and are mainly responsible for order in the country.

I want to repeat, that far from trying to do something against the Civil Guards, we are their friends. We are a government that is friendly with the police. We respect order, and demand that order and authority be respected. But above all, we are friends of those we know are playing a fundamental role in this process. There are those who believe that we are going to act strongly and severely, but they are mistaken. In this case we are doing everything possible for those who work at the service of the nation.

Army Confiscates Police Weapons

PY170055 Paris AFP in Spanish 0016 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Lima, 16 May (AFP) -- The Peruvian Army today confiscated weapons and ammunition from police arsenals to avoid major incidents, a high-ranking military source has reported. This measure was taken in the face of the radicalization of the police strike, which has forced military patrols to guard the streets, public buildings, and embassies.

Civil Guard Sergeant Nelson Pastrana, the leader of the striking policemen, has told a group of congressmen in Congress that the strike is being observed peacefully by the 100,000 members of the police forces.

The confiscation of weapons was carried out without incident. An Army source has told AFP that public order prevails both in Lima and elsewhere in the country, because special measures have been taken to guarantee economic activities and tranquillity.

Mobs shouting "loot" have been seen running near the main shopping centers of Lima, causing fear among store owners and forcing them to close as a precautionary measure. Many people, especially very poor people, have been seen in the downtown area.

The police strike is designed to demand economic and administrative benefits for police personnel, the resignation of Interior Minister Abel Salinas, and the right for policemen to organize trade unions.

Garcia Meets With Strikers

PY170247 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 May 87

[Excerpts] The strike called by a sector of the police forces could be solved tonight. President Alan Garcia today met at Government Palace with members of the Armed Forces Joint Staff to discuss this problem. The meeting was also attended kby Interior Minister Abel Salinas. [passage omitted]

It has been unofficially reported that the unscheduled meeting was prompted by the police strike that has made it necessary for the Armed Forces to deploy their personnel to preserve order in the city.

After a 3-hour meeting, the members of the Armed Forces Joint Staff led by Rear Admiral Juan Soria Diaz exited through the rear door of Government Palace without commenting to the press. Interior Minister Abel Salinas also left without comment.

Speaking in Congress, Senator Guillermo Larco Cox, chairman of the Senate Defense Committee, said the following:

[Begin recording] The conditions required for the police to return to work obviously were discussed. Despite what some people might think, the United Left congressmen have cooperated in seeking a solution to this problem. In view of the nature of the demands, we have limited ourselves to assuring the strikers that they will have the required channels of communication so that their demands may be discussed thoroughly and expeditiously, because many of their demands cannot be solved immediately. The representatives of the striking policemen understood this. The executive branch is also aware that in 24 hours it cannot solve problems that are decades old. [end recording]

This afternoon President Garcia met at Government Palace with Deputy Luis Negreiros and a delegation of striking policemen, whose demands were discussed for 2 hours. Upon leaving Government Palace, Deputy Negreiros made the following comments to our station:

[Begin recording] [Negreiros] It was a truly significant meeting, which I believe has paved the way for finding a solution very soon. I would say a solution will be reached in a relatively short time. During the meeting, all parties conveyed their decision to reaffirm the institutions, one of them being the Civil Guard, and about which we are all concerned, especially the government.

[Reporter] Will the strike continue?

[Negreiros] The truth is that this was not a collective negotiation. This is not a labor issue, it is an institutional problem that the government will solve adequately.

[Reporter] What solution was reached at the meeting?

[Negreiros] That it is necessary to return things to normal as soon as possible because this is in the best national interest. President Garcia has conveyed to the police representatives his understanding and his concern as chief of state and the government's decision to find formulas to solve problems like this which, I repeat, we are the first ones in [word indistinct] [end recording]

Document Signed To End Strike

PY172245 Paris AFP in Spanish 1826 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Lima, 17 May (AFP) -- After 48 hours of intense negotiations, the strike declared by the Peruvian police ended early today. However, the police still are not on the streets of Lima and rural cities.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Deputy Luis Negreiros said here today that the strike ended after a document was signed whereby the police personnel promise to end the strike and the government promises, among other things, to substantially increase the salaries of lower level police personnel.

The policemen, however, still have not reported to their stations, thus continuing the 3-day-old strike. Meanwhile, military patrols are continuing to preserve public order in Lima and other cities.

A police spokesman has said that the agreement to end the strike could not be implemented immediately because consultations are being held with the rural police stations. Another difficulty apparently stems from the fact that the document does not clearly specify the salary increase announced by the government.

Ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] Secretary General Luis Negreiros has said the document, which he signed early today with 15 police force delegates -- the Civil Guard, the PIP, and the Republican Guard -- states that all police personnel of the same rank will earn the same salary, retroactive to January, and that this measure will be enforced at the end of May.

Negreiros explained that it was not really a collective bargaining process, because it is not exactly a labor problem but an institutional problem that has existed for years and that the government wants to solve in the shortest possible time.

He noted that the government promised to pay the same salaries to personnel of the same rank, and that this measure involves a substantial salary increase.

After explaining that the exact percentage of the increases will be established in the next few days, Negreiros said that the police will be put under the jurisdiction of the courts [fuero privativo] and that Congress will debate a bill establishing 8-hour workdays. He said that most of the policemen's 20 demands have already been met, including those dealing with social, technical, and professional matters.

The strike, which began on Friday and which yesterday worsened as some 100,000 policemen throughout the country decided to join it, was staged on the eve of the anniversary of the beginning of the Andean guerrilla campaign by the Shining Path. It was feared that terrorist attacks, which according to the police have already been planned by terrorist groups, might be staged while the country is without police protection. There are some 30,000 policemen in Lima.

The strikers staged violent actions in some police stations and some street marches while shooting in the air and detonating bombs. They demanded, among other things, an increase in their current 2,400-inti ($90) salaries to 10,000 intis ($350), special compensation to cover the danger to their lives, seniority, a 48-hour workweek, and the resignation of Interior Minister Abel Salinas.

The Peruvian capital, with a population of some 7,000,000 people, has been guarded by military troops, who cordoned off the strike headquarters -- the 42d police station in downtown Lima -- and other stations.

This is the third strike in police history. According to the Constitution, police cannot stage a stoppage. There was another strike on 23 May 1983, but the most serious one occurred on 5 Febrary 1975 during the government of General Juan Velasco Alvarado, when public buildings and stores were plundered and set on fire because of the massive police absence. The strikers and those who looted the stores were violently repressed, and the exact number of victims is not yet known.

Meanwhile, thousands of APRA members today began to gather in the main square, where a rally is being held in support of President Alan Garcia and in defense of democracy and social peace.

Police Reject Agreement

PY172322 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Lima, 17 May (AFP) -- A spokesman of low-ranking Civil Guardsmen today announced in Lima that thousands of striking policemen this afternoon rejected the salary proposal made by Peruvian President Alan Garcia and decided to continue the strike they started 3 days ago.

Army troops are patrolling this city in the midst of a tense atmosphere, and the streets leading to Government Palace have been closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The striking policemen thus have rejected the agreement their representatives signed early this morning with a government commission.

Strikers Cause Disturbances

PY180045 Paris AFP in Spanish 2318 GMT 17 May 87

[Excerpts] Lima, 17 May (AFP) -- [Passage omitted] Officials have reported that more than 15 urban service buses today were taken over by striking policemen, who used their weapons to force passengers to disembark. The policemen also went to several police precinct stations to demand that policemen who had not yet joined the strike to do so. Several bus passengers who protested were attacked by the strikers, according to witnesses. In many cases, the policemen fired their weapons in the air.

It has also been reported that the strike is being supported by the policemen of Cusco, Trujillo, Puno, and other cities.

Different political sectors consider the strike extremely serious, because the strike worsened today, the seventh anniversary of the popular war unleashed by the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas in 1980. The Shining Path, however, has not yet unleashed any bloody attacks.

Another issue worrying officials is that the Communist Party labor organization, the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), is maintaining its decision to hold a national strike on 19 May to protest the government's economic policies and the high cost of living.

This afternoon Deputy Negreiros was continuing his efforts to negotiate with the striking policemen at a time when 3,000 of them are secluded in the 42d Civil Guard Headquarters, located about 15 blocks from the Government Palace.

Water and electricity have been cut off in the area, and Army and armored troops have also surrounded the area. The Marine Infantry has replaced the police in the Port of Callao.

Communique Orders Police To Work

PY180252 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0135 GMT 18 May 87

[Communique issued by the Presidential Press Secretariat in Lima on 17 May]

[Text] 1. Since early morning on 15 May members of the police force have been holding a strike, refusing to carry out their mission and taking over the 42d Police Headquarters. Other groups in mutiny have taken over other police garrisons and gone to the streets of Lima in buses taken from the Urban Transportation Company to force other policemen who are fulfilling their duties to join the strike.

2. So far the government has acted with great calm and prudence without using force, which could cause loss of life and violent situations, despite the fact that the police forces must respect the law, discipline, and the chain of command. Furthermore, this type of action is constitutionally prohibited. In addition, the president of the Republic himself has talked with members of the police forces to listen to their demands and told them of the need to return to work.

3. As a result of that meeting, a dialogue began between Deputy Luis Negreiros, secretary general of the APRA and the representatives of the striking policemen. As a result, a document that recognizes the need to solve the economic and labor problems expressed by the policemen was signed in the presence of hundreds of policemen.

4. However, despite the signature of document, infiltrated elements who are not members of the police forces, and some inflamed policemen today continued the strike. Some rejected the document by denying the authority of the delegates who signed it and disseminating a report that the delegates who had signed the document had been arrested. This report is absolutely false. Today, a march was held from the 42d Police Headquarters to Abancay Avenue and on this occasion when the presidential car and his motorcade were passing over the Ricardo Palma Bridge, a group of policemen in front of the 42d Police Headquarters fired their revolvers.

In addition to harassing the policemen on duty in the various police precincts, the policemen on mutiny forced other policemen to leave their guard posts in key points of the city, such as the Santa Rosa Thermoelectric Plant, the Electronlina offices in various points of the city, and the (Tarjea) reservoir, which provides water to the entire city.

5. The agitators have a very clear objective. They intend to deny the validity of the document and the government's intention of solving the problem for the purpose of extending the conflict until 18 May, the anniversary of the beginning of the criminal activities by the Shining Path, and until 19 May, when an organization has called for a stoppage.

6. The main duty of the government, which has adopted a flexible and prudent attitude to avoid painful situations, is to preserve security, tranquillity, and the authority of the democratic system. Therefore, the government hereby calls upon the members of the police forces to leave the barracks they have seized, refrain from harrassing the policemen who are fulfilling their duties, and return to work.

7. Since the act was signed today at 0400, the government will wait a reasonable time so that police personnel can familiarize themselves with it. As of 0000 local time [0500 GMT] 18 May, any member of the police force who does not return to duty, obeying the institutional chain of command and the laws, will no longer be a member of the police and will be brought to trial. As of 0000 local time, the Armed Forces will completely take over public order and will use the necessary means to put an end to the mutiny affecting the country the last 3 days. If necessary, the Armed Forces will evict the police from the police headquarters, using the necessary force.

8. In the face of these facts, which obviously have been planned to facilitate terrorist actions, the government asks the people to behave responsibly and to cooperate in order to preserve the authority of the democratic system. The government, which has been extremely prudent, and society, which is aware of this, will deplore any action in which people get injured. This will be the exclusive responsibility of those who refuse to end the rebellion or of those who have infiltrated the police forces.

[Dated] Lima, 17 May 1987

[Signed] The Presidential Press Secretariat

Troops Ready To Act

PY180301 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpts] Lima, 17 May (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government today issued an ultimatum to the striking policemen, telling them to end the stoppage before midnight, when the Armed Forces will take full control of public order. [passage omitted]

High-ranking government and military sources have confirmed that troops of the airborne division (commandos) and armored units, which are headquartered in Lima, are ready to take action tonight. These forces will act rapidly to remove the policemen from the police stations, barracks, and police command stations they seized on Friday.

This decision was made by President Alan Garcia this afternoon, after a 3-hour meeting with several civilian and military ministers, military and police commanders, and lawmakers of the ruling APRA. [passage omitted]

Infantry Troops Deployed

PY180414 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0347 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpt] Lima, 17 May (EFE) -- Infantry troops with tanks have deployed in downtown Lima in a large area around the Presidential Palace following a government ultimatum to striking policemen.

According to a presidential communique, the government has suspended school classes on 18 May, the anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle by the Shining Path, and on 19 May, when the communist CGTP plans to hold a nationwide strike.

Local radio stations reported two terrorist attacks tonight in Chimbote, 440 km north of Lima. Two dynamite sticks exploded at the EL DIARIO DE CHIMBOTE building and at a school. There were no reports on casualties or damage.

Groups of striking policemen threw tear gas inside Channel 5 Television, whose owner is a presidential adviser, and occupied Channel 11 at gun point, reported witnesses at the two television stations.

The government of Alan Garcia today in an ultimatum gave the striking policemen until midnight to end their strike.

The official communique said that at that time the Armed Forces will use "force if necessary" to subdue the striking policemen staying in the police precinct stations, garrisons, and headquarters.

Airborne units and the armored division stationed in Lima are ready to carry out a quick operation against the strikers, according to official sources. [passage omitted]

Police Leave Stations

PY181125 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0720 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpt] Lima, 18 May (EFE) -- The Peruvian policemen who have been on strike since 15 May left the police stations they had been occupying shortly before midnight Sunday, the deadline which the government had set for a military intervention against the rebels.

The policemen began to abandon the 42d Police Headquarters, the main rebel stronghold located next to the City Hall at 2300 local time (0400 GMT), by which time the other police stations and barracks in Lima had already been abandoned.

The spokesmen for the policemen, most of them noncommissioned officers from the three Peruvian Police branches, stated that they were leaving the police stations because "we do not want to play into the hands of the government." However, they promised that they would resume their protests early this morning. [passage omitted]

ARCHBISHOP CRITICIZES U.S. REGIONAL POLICY

PA180210 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1606 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Panama City, 15 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Archbishop Marcos McGrath asserted today that the United States "has a nearsighted view" of Central America and the world in general.

McGrath, whose parents were U.S. citizens and who was born in the Panama Canal area, asserted that although the United States "is quite generous toward many causes," it wants to implement "its liberal capitalist concept" throughout the world without exception. According to McGrath, this view is "morally unjust" and Catholic bishops in the United States have "strongly" rejected this policy.

McGrath, who is the "link" between the Latin American and North American bishops, believes that the Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties signed in 1977 -- he participated in the negotiations -- are a "perfect example" of how to handle relations between Latin America and the United States.

McGrath confessed that he was able to comprise a favorable "alliance," through contacts with Catholic and political leaders in the United States, concerning Panama's sovereign right to administer the canal.

The 63-year-old archbishop is periodically consulted by the U.S. bishops' commission for Latin America, which will meet in this capital next July 20-25 with the presidents of the Central American Episcopal conferences to analyze the sociopolitical situation in the region.

McGrath criticized the military views that prevail concerning the crisis in the area: "The Central American military forces, the (U.S.) Congress, and the guerrilla forces are equally responsible because they seek to attain power by force." McGrath added: "We believe that the military solution -- either rightist or leftist, from within or from abroad -- squanders life, money, and economic structures; and casts us into poverty."

McGrath said that the Central American Catholic church's greatest problems are evangelization ("we inherited a situation in which the masses lacked the proper religious formation") and poverty ("hence the need to attain favorable changes for all, particularly the poor people.")

The archbishop says that the proliferation of religious sects, mostly from the United States, do not represent a problem for Catholics: "The sects simply avail themselves of this scant [religious] formation to attract a lot of people and increase their ranks."

McGrath said the vocation for priesthood has increased, and this is proved by a current registration of 160 men in the San Jose seminary in San Salvador, precisely "in a country where the civil war has caused so much bloodshed." He added: "There is more generosity amidst the war and suffering."

McGrath believes the Contadora Group's "lack of efficiency" is mostly the result of actions carried out outside the region, "because these actions must be carried out in the region."

INTERFERING STATEMENT BY ELLIOTT ABRAMS CRITICIZED

PA171546 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 May 87 p 3

[Text] With the usual casual air of the people in charge of Washington's foreign policy, Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, yesterday made statements regarding Mexico's and other Latin American countries' current situation, statements that in themselves constitute unacceptable interference in our countries' internal affairs. Abrams reserved the mission of strengthening the enforcement of democratic life in Mexico for the government he represents, as if our country needed or was willing to accept the support of the existing hegemonists to perfect its system of government.

In this same regard, the State Department's Latin American specialist predicted that next year President Miguel de la Madrid will pass some of Mexico's problems on to his successor because -- according to Abrams -- our country is facing a situation that cannot be resolved "with the stroke of a pen." To say that the president of a nation cannot resolve all of the problems he is confronted with and must leave some of them to his successor is simply inane. What president, in what country, could do such a thing?

Beyond his apparent goodwill toward Mexico and other Latin American countries, Abrams yesterday demonstrated that his government has not fully understood that the only U.S. foreign policy acceptable to the Latin American people is that of absolute respect for their sovereignty and self-determination.

Abrams also offered to promote Mexico's economic recovery, with De la Madrid as well as his successors. We already know what this offer means. Our country is still submerged in an economic recession, thanks to the burdensome service of the foreign debt, but, nevertheless, within a short time it could suffer the forced repatriation of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers. Washington's economic cooperation with Latin America is so ancient and well known that it is not necessary to devote much time to it.

It is less easy to explain the reasons that prompt the Reagan government to create political tension in Mexico, such as is inevitably created by that country's constant offers to come here to perfect our democracy. Our country has not been a political problem for Washington, at least not since Venustiano Carranza's government. What, then, does the United States want now? When there was genuine collaboration with Mexico it left indelible records, such as those written during the successive mandates of Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of the few U.S. presidents who knew how to be Mexico's friend. It will not be easy to add Ronald Reagan's name to the list headed by Roosevelt, at least not while officials like Abrams continue to be determined to get involved in affairs that belong only to Mexicans.

BRIEFS

ELECTRONUCLEAR PLANTS -- The Federal Electricity Commission plans to build four more electronuclear power plants within the next 13 years as specified in the energy plan, which states there should be 4,000 by the year 2000. The parastate enterprise reported that the first Laguna Verde unit should be in operation by the second half of 1987, and work on the second unit is 54 percent completed, making it impossible for it to become operational during the present administration. [Excerpts] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 30 Apr 87 p 9 PA]

Consequently, McGrath advocates "(Costa Rican) President Oscar Arias' efforts," because these could have a greater effect, given that the efforts are based most of all on the Central American people's decisions.

According to the archbishop, the Central American war could eventually conclude as a result of fatigue. "The Sandinists want to maintain a strong guideline, but they continue to sustain tremendous economic damage year after year." McGrath said: "Real peace talks could be attained in Nicaragua and El Salvador simply because they will tire of the war."

Referring to the Salvadoran case, the archbishop believes that "deep mistrust (between the parties in conflict) precludes any agreement." "None of the two parties will win the war with their weapons," he predicted. He stated: "Theoretical-practical discussions have not concluded, so the Christians cannot use the Marxist analysis "to involve their faith in a materialism that annuls this faith."

McGrath criticized leftist Christians in Nicaragua who use the Marxist analysis in their theological reflections, and "support the Sandinists, openly contradicting the bishops."

McGrath believes the Latin American Episcopate "is much closer to Rome nowadays" because communications have been strengthened. "Rome is more understanding and Latin America has more originality. Europe used to set the pace in the past, and all our apostolic movements formerly began in Europe."

McGrath said: Latin America has "its own view" of Catholicism. This view is the result of our work for the poor and for justice, "because we see so many poor people and so much injustice. That is not the Swedish church's case. It is the same faith, but within a different context."

COLON AUTHORITIES THREATEN TO OCCUPY LOCKS

PA160141 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 May 87 p 14-A

[Report by Miguel A. Rodriguez II]

[Text] Colon Mayor Juan Fidel Macias Cerezo and the members of the Colon municipal council have threatened to support any movement in Colon seeking to take over the Gatun Locks. They made those statements during a meeting held at the house of Legislator Argenida de Barrios in the reverted area of Coco Solo.

Planning and Economic Policy Minister Ricaurte Vasquez, Alfredo Oranges, president of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission, Major Aquilino Siero, chief of the second military region, and the Colon governor also attended the meeting. The corregimiento representatives stated they will support the occupation of the Gatun Locks if the government does not give a specific and immediate reply to the problems that Colon is facing. The municipal authorities also threatened to declare a hunger strike if their problems are not resolved.

The corregimiento representatives said Colon is in a state of stagnation, because the national government has not earmarked the necessary allocations for that region's development.

It is important to point out that Minister Vasquez limited himself to explaining how the national budget is handled. This caused displeasure among the participants because they expected more specific information regarding the economic resources that the government can allocate to face the Atlantic regions problems. "If the problems of Colon are not resolved, we will declare a strike and take over the Gatun Locks to express our rebellion," the municipal authorities said.

In addition, Alfredo Oranges said it is necessary that the government take necessary and immediate measures to resolve the problems of the Atlantic coast.

Oranges did not give any information regarding the existing allocations destined to face the problem either, thus again provoking the anger of the Colon municipal authorities. Colon is currently facing educational, health, housing, and communication problems.

The government representatives were not clear enough to convince the municipal authorities that the government is going to do something for Colon Province. The occupation of the Gatun Locks could cause serious international problems for Panama.

CABINET AUTHORIZES PRESIDENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD

PA151848 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 May 87 p 1

[Report by Lisette Carrasco]

[Excerpt] The Panamanian Cabinet called upon Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel to take upon the presidency of the Republic as acting president during President Eric Arturo Delvalle's absence from the country. Delvalle will be away from Panama for no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days starting today, 14 May.

In a press bulletin, the Information Secretariat of the Presidency issued a report on the long cabinet meeting, which lasted 1100-1900. The report includes the permission given to the Panamanian president to travel to Israel and the Vatican in reply to official invitations made by the Israeli Government and Pope John Paul II.

The cabinet's permission was based on the Constitution, which points out that the cabinet will authorize the president to leave the country for a period of between 12 to 30 days, and that during the president's absence, he will be replaced by the first vice president or by the second vice president if the former is not available. [passage mitted]

PRESIDENT DELVALLE, PERUVIAN VICE PRESIDENT MEET

PA132223 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 May 87 pp 1a, 12a

[Excerpts] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle received Luis Alberto Sanchez, Peruvian vice president and president of the Senate, at the Palace of the Herons. [passage omitted]

During the friendly talk with Panamanian President Delvalle, Vice President Sanchez conveyed Peruvian President Alan Garcia's warm greetings and desire to visit our country when circumstances permit. [passage omitted]

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT ARIAS COMMENTS ON ECONOMY, PEACE

PA152202 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 8 May 87 pp 4a, 5a

[Interview with President Oscar Arias by Edgar Fonseca and Armando Mayorga of LA NACION; at Arias' residence at Rohrmoser, San Jose; date not given -- quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Question] Regarding economic matters, it is believed the most important decisions are geared to negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank. Would a different economic policy have been implemented if the situation had been different?

[Arias] No, the economic policy we want to carry out is almost Costa Rica's only alternative. I presented the core of this policy 8 years ago in my book "A New Course for Costa Rica's Development."

"The need to make the productive sectors more efficient is a fundamental condition to increase exports and growth rates. There is little disagreement with opposition leaders about this specific field. I would say those disagreements deal mostly with the degree of those measures."

"I repeat: I will not jeopardize social peace in my country. For this reason I cannot listen to those who demand the elimination of subsidies as soon as possible or the lowering of tariffs within the next 24 hours. I am referring to LA NACION's editorial writers and to those whose articles appear on page 15 of this newspaper."

"I was elected to make good my word at the cathedral and not to please, either economy-wise or international-wise, the ideas of those who write editorials in LA NACION."

[Question] How do you now view the possibility of having the tax package approved? What measures would follow if it is not approved?

[Arias] We would have to take measures that would truly jeopardize social peace, such as the elimination of both very important social projects and almost all the resources devoted to public investment.

'This would be so because we cannot stop paying salaries or amortizing the debt, both foreign and domestic. However, I trust we will have those new taxes approved soon because Costa Rica is above all party interests, and peace keeping is the top priority if we want to accelerate our economic growth."

[Question] How will you keep the country away from the conflicts in the area if your peace plan fails at Esquipulas, where it will be discussed by the area presidents on 25 and 26 June?

[Arias] Please allow me to say something else prior to answering your question. As I said on May 1, Costa Rica is now farther from war than a year ago. Nothing will deter me from struggling for a solution based on dialogue and negotiation for the conflicts in Central America.

"I remember the bitter criticism I heard 15 months ago when I told a U.S. reporter I did not advocate aid for the anti-Sandinists in Nicaragua.

"I will keep the LA NACION editorial about 'President Arias' Slipups.' Today, 15 months later, before the world, the greater recognition my government has received is a result of our crystal-clear, straightforward position regarding the United States, when we told this nation we favor peaceful solutions and oppose violence.

"I can imagine the coarseness of today's editorials if the Costa Rican president had participated in the Irangate hearings instead of opposing aid for the contras.

"I mean, if I had yielded to the warmgering position of helping or letting the contras use our territory, there is no doubt we now would be in the middle of a full-scale war with Nicaragua. The use of our territory by the Nicaraguan rebel forces would have meant -- as happened at Las Crucitas -- a couple, perhaps a dozen, 2 dozen, 3 dozen rural and civilian policemen killed by EPS machineguns.

"As a result of this, we would have broken relations with Nicaragua, declared war, reestablished an army, and ended what makes Costa Rica a unique country in the world: no armed forces and using the taxpayers' money for education, health, and housing only.

"Those who today regret we have not experienced a 6, 7, or 8-percent growth would not regret [as published], I am sure, our becoming poorer and poorer as the result of our participation in the armed struggle in Central America and having to earmark billions upon billions of colons to buy tanks and planes, as Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador do."

[Question] How would you keep the country away from the military conflict if your peace proposal fails.?

[Arias] I am realistic. I do not want to commit the sin of being utterly unrealistic. May God permit us to make steady progress in the achievement of peace during the coming Esquipulas meeting. I do not think, however, that in a meeting of 6 or 8 hours we will be able to achieve what eight Latin American countries have not been able to achieve in 4 years.

"Advancement in the direction of this peace so much longed for by all the Central American peoples will by itself constitute success."

PRESIDENT ARIAS VISITS SPAIN, MEETS GONZALEZ

For reportage on the visit of President Arias to Spain, his meeting with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos, and Spanish reaction to the Arias peace plan for Central America, see the Spain section of the 13 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

EL SALVADOR

COL FUENTES AYALA SHOT TO DEATH IN RESTAURANT

PA170408 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 0348 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Colonel Jose Guillermo Fuentes Ayala, executive officer of the artillery brigade, was the victim of an attack today at about 0200. Fuentes Ayala was at a restaurant called (Asados de Don Pedro) on the General Escalon Boulevard. Witnesses explained that a man approached the militaryman and without saying a word, shot him eight times and ran away to the shock of all present. As of now, the motives for the murder are not known. This is the report of the Press Office of the Armed Forces for listeners of Cadena Sonora.

OPPOSITION DEPUTIES END PARLIAMENTARY STRIKE

PA151829 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 May 87 pp 3, 31

[Excerpt] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] deputies yesterday ended their parliamentary strike. The announcement was made by ARENA President Alfredo Cristiani. At the same time, PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party] Deputy Roberto Escobar Garcia and independent Deputy Rene Fortin Magana also announced their incorporation into the assembly.

The reason given by the ARENA deputies for rejoining the assembly's plenary sessions was that the Supreme Court had accepted the writ of protection filed by the operations chief of the CCE [Central Electoral Council] and he had been reinstated in his post after being dismissed by CCE President Mario Samayoa.

Political observers said the real reason ARENA, PAISA, and Fortin Magana ended their parliamentary strike was that the pact between the PCN [National Conciliation Party] and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] left them in a difficult political situation that they had to resolve by any means. Otherwise, the observers indicated, the opposition deputies would not be able to justify their position to their voters in view that the assembly will soon be discussing the amnesty law, the extension on the income tax declaration and payment, and the approval of many loans and donations from abroad. [passage omitted]

GUATEMALA

ANALYSTS LAUD RESULTS OF CEREZO TRIP TO WASHINGTON

PA152340 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Impartial observers remarked tonight that President Vinicio Cerezo has scored an important political victory during his current visit to Washington because he reiterated his policy of active neutrality before President Ronald Reagan and television cameras from all over the world.

According to political analysts, Cerezo succeeded in worthily representing Guatemala and playing a decent role by not coming before the U.S. President and asking for assistance or special favors. It was remarked that Reagan acknowledged Cerezo's firm adherence to his foreign policy, stating that the Guatemalan president has firm convictions.

Guatemala managed to firm up its favorable position with respect to the other Central American countries through Cerezo's visit to Washington, it was stressed tonight. While El Salvador and Honduras depend on daily Pentagon military assistance and Costa Rica acts as a sounding board for Reagan's statements, Guatemala is not bound by any of these ties.

It was stressed tonight, and confirmed during Cerezo's visit, that our country pursues an independent policy of nonalignment with the biggest power in the world. However, it does not reject the possibility of being its friend, but not its servant.

CONTRA CLAIMS MANAGUA HELPS GUATEMALAN REBELS

PA152300 Paris AFP in Spanish 2149 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 May (AFP) -- Spokesmen of the Nicaraguan contras today said the Sandinist government sends weapons to the Guatemalan guerrillas through Belizean territory.

Terencio Garcia, leader of the Nicaraguan Resistance Organization [Organizacion de Resistencia Nicaraguense], said in Guatemala City that Managua has been supplying military materiel to the Guatemalan rebels through Belize "since 1986." The weapons, he said, are destined to two of the four guerrilla organizations which operate in Guatemala: the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) and the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA).

According to Garcia, the route for the weapons "previously" crossed through El Salvador but because the Salvadoran guerrillas "kept the best weapons," an alternate route was sought beginning in the second half of 1986." [quotation marks as received] Since then, he said, the Sandinists have been using Belize, taking advantage of "the Manuel Esquivel government's sympathy towards the Managua regime and his anti-Guatemalan feelings."

The weapons reportedly depart from the Nicaraguan port of Bluefields and arrive in Belize -- a former British colony claimed by Guatemala -- aboard shrimp boats and are then taken by land to Peten, in northern Guatemala.

"We do not know if the Belizean Government is directly involved in the arms traffic or if it just turns a blind eye to it. The fact is that it is taking place," Garcia stressed.

HONDURAS

CONTRAS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWING FROM NICARAGUA

PA180030 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1533 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist forces in Nicaragua have begun an orderly withdrawal to Honduras, a rebel spokesman reported today. The contra leader, who asked not to be identified, told ACAN-EFE that the anti-Sandinist rebels "are returning" to Honduran territory.

"It is a strategic pullout of small units that already accomplished specific military objectives and would not be able to resist alone the large Sandinist offensive unleashed during the past few weeks," the source said. The source added that so far, a contingent of 130 men that operated in northern Nicaragua has returned and will be sent to an area away from the Nicaraguan border to prevent Sandinist incursions into Honduran territory while chasing the rebels, and to avoid problems with local civilians.

Approximately 12,000 contras who were in provisional camps in Honduras began entering Nicaragua at the beginning of the year when the United States increased its economic and military aid.

Only about 4,000 contras remained in Honduran territory in camps built for reinforcement, rest, and logistical support, located far from the Nicaraguan border.

F-5E PLANE SALE 'UNNECESSARY PURCHASE'

PA161345 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 May 87

[Station Commentary: "The Air Power Game"]

[Text] As usual, the purchase of 12 F-5e jet planes -- sophisticated warplanes made by the United States, but which have been discontinued by the manufacturer -- has been confirmed by international dispatches. The way things are in Honduras, the purchase of these planes, which will cost some 75 million lempiras [as heard], was an enigma at first -- the government continually denied the deal. Then, half covering the impact of this unnecessary purchase, it said this would not involve any outlay as the planes were part of a U.S. military assistance package. Finally, Ambassador Everett Briggs, who is the only person who has spoken clearly on this deal, said Honduras will have to pay some 75 million lempiras to pay for this war purchase.

After so many stories denying the purchase of the F-5e, we have at last the confirmed version by international dispatches and by the U.S. ambassador in Tegucigalpa. We are witnesses to a new negotiation that implies the sacrifice of the economy of all Hondurans.

As an argument and main justification to buy these sophisticated warplanes, the heads of the U.S. Pentagon, who are the ones who have been leading this operation, claim the United States should supply Honduras with the F-5e's to reinforce the Honduran Air Force, substituting the old Israeli-built Super Mystere planes. According to Pentagon strategists, with these sophisticated F-5e planes our Honduran Air Force will recover its hegemony and bring about a balance to Central American armament, broken by the EPS' modernization after it received much material supplied by the USSR and Cuba.

Apparently it is the worry over the Nicaraguan warmongering escalation that motivates the Pentagon to implement the delivery of these planes to Honduras, although their use in case of conflict is very remote, starting from a farfetched possibility of an attack.

The chief of the Honduran Armed Forces said one Sunday over Radio America that he did not consider a Sandinist attack on Honduras likely and did not believe the U.S. would invade Nicaragua -- a point of view we share, taking into account that the United States, with its intentions, has proved to exclusively follow a plan to weaken the economy of the Sandinist regime by means of destructive actions and sabotage carried out by the Nicaraguan contras.

If the United States is interested in backing our Honduran Air Force by making her maintain Central American air supremacy, it should not be by selling us sophisticated airplanes which have been discontinued, as this deal guarantees us. Nicaragua, in its desire to arm itself, could very well acquire similar planes, like the MiG-21, which the USSR has offered the Sandinist regime. Therefore, this supremacy would not last long -- maybe just long enough for the Soviets to deliver MiG-21 planes to Managua, which would open up the war power game, leaving Honduras with a further 75 million [currency not specified] of military debt.

If Honduras acquires the F-5e planes and Nicaragua receives from the USSR the Mig-21, we are helping the game of military power, not decided by our own economic capacity but determined by what the big powers believe and want.

This is what is worrisome. Our economic condition does not allow us the freedom of starting this aerial power game to bring about an indispensable balance and halt a possible expansionist escalation of the Managua regime, a balance which we see as being very far away by buying more and more weapons, while Nicaragua also obtains from the USSR and Cuba -- maybe faster than us, as appears to already be the case.

The amount of air or land weapons depends on a large outlay by Nicaragua. On the other hand, Nicaragua, within the socialist orbit, benefits by international solidarity, which guarantees, first of all, the supply of weapons to face the enemy.

This is how Nicaragua, despite living in a state of war, with a counterrevolution which sabotages the most important economic activity, far from being overwhelmed by all that destruction, has enough strength to maintain this guerrilla struggle, because obtaining money is no problem for the Sandinists when there is the unconditional supply from Cuba and the USSR.

What should we do when faced with the irrationality of having sophisticated war weapons, when by having them we cannot avoid our neighbor, Nicaragua, obtaining the equivalent or better ones? There will not be any balance -- on the contrary, there will be the start of an arms race in Central America with unknown consequences.

The chief of the Honduran Armed Forces said he does not believe a military victory is possible. He does not believe in the possibility of any Sandinist attack against Honduras, nor in any invasion of Nicaraguan territory. This is an objective viewpoint which we share, and we must think there is no need to increase air power.

However, if this obstinacy to consolidate this supremacy through our Honduran Air Force originates from abroad, as we have been reading from the dispatches from Washington, the Honduran Government is acting very badly by not putting an immediate stop to those orders which are imposed on us through a warmongering policy of the U.S. Government.

In the meantime, the air power game is a game that will cost us a 75 million trifle to start 1987 by buying sophisticated airplanes, which, by the way, have been discontinued.

Secretary Contradicts Envoy

PA171554 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The sale of the F-5e planes to Honduras continues to be a favorite topic in the current debate in the United States and Honduras. Yesterday, the press secretary contradicted the U.S. ambassador in regard to the negotiations on these planes.

According to [Presidential press secretary] Lisandro Quezada, the chief of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Tegucigalpa is wrong about the nature of the financing for the planes. It has been broadly explained that the new planes will not cost a single cent to Honduras, government spokesman Quezada insists. Here is a report by reporter Danilo Antunes.

[Begin recording] [Quezada, in progress] ... at the proper time, the press secretariat reported -- and you probably remember -- these planes would not cost a single cent to our country, and that is so. I will tell you how this works. The United States has a mechanism for granting military assistance. The U.S. Government has a package. In this case, it has a package of [figure indistinct] million of military assistance for its allies. From this package they take whatever they think is necessary for each country and purchase whatever equipment is requested. It is from this package the U.S. Government will purchase the planes. Therefore, they will not cost this country a single cent.

We had this type of experience last year when our government asked the United States for help transporting troops to an area in Olancho that cannot be reached by leand. Then, from a $20-million package he has for this type of emergency of its allies, President Reagan took $2 million to pay for the transportation of our troops. Therefore, we did not finance the troops [as heard].

[Antunes] [Words indistinct] a situation that is quite special. The U.S. Ambassador said yesterday that the Honduran Government has to pay $75 million aside from the donation to be made by the U.S. Government.

[Quezada] With due respect, the ambassador is somewhat mistaken. Maybe it is because he is not very proficient in our language and gets a bit confused.

[Antunes] How can we interpret this? Reagan's policy is one thing, and the ambassador, who is his representative, says exactly the opposite. What [words indistinct] is to confuse public opinion.

[Quezada] No. What we have to do is to be guided by what General Regalado Hernandez confirmed once more today. He is an honorable military man who has no reason to lie to the Honduran people or anybody. He said categorically stated over a local radio station that we will not pay for he planes because they form part of the economic and military assistance [words indistinct] the United States. This is the truth here in this country.

[Antunes] I am asking about the ambassador because he is confusing people. You said that [words indistinct] is true, and Gen Regalado Hernandez said that Honduras will not pay anything for the planes. However, the ambassador, who is a representative of the U.S. Government, said we do have to pay for them.

[Quezada] Well, I cannot [words indistinct] a statement made by an ambassador, not just [Ambassador] Briggs, remarks, but a statement made by any ambassador, because that would be taking part in a debate with another country, and we are not facing anyone. We are merely saying that we Hondurans must have credibility in our highest dignitaries. Gen Regalado is a Honduran dignitary who said we will not pay for the [planes], and that is the truth. [end recording]

REBELS THREATEN TO KILL DNI REGIONAL DIRECTOR

PA161825 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The Lorenzo Zelaya Front -- the terrorist group that claimed responsibility for the machinegun attack on Captain Vicente Rafael Canales Nunez in which businessman Hector Danilo paz Paredes and the captain's bodyguard, Jose Eusebio Aguilar [name as heard], were killed -- two nights ago threatened to kill Major Rodolfo Raul Velasquez Diaz, regional director [in San Pedro Sula] of the Department of National Investigation (DNI).

In a telephone call made around 2100, the Bayardo Paguada command, military wing of the Lorenzo Zelaya Front, also claimed responsibility for planning and executing the abominable, widely condemned attack that caused panic and terror on Tuesday at 2d Avenue and 7th Street in Concepcion neighborhood.

Maj Velasquez Diaz received the call directly. The message was concise: You are next, gorilla; you will be our next victim. A DNI source commented that the criminals appear to be well informed, since the call was received on Maj Velasquez's private line.

Obviously, the Lorenzo Zelaya Front is showing its natural resentment against the present DNI director, a resentment that increased when Velasquez Diaz personally headed the police patrol that located and killed alleged urban guerrillas Hilda Rosa Lopez de Rato and Freddy Nolasco Mejia. The police believe these individuals were central figures in the rebel group. Thus, the Lorenzo Zelaya Front has threatened to kill the regional DNI director in San Pedro Sula.

NICARAGUA

ARCE COMMENTS ON U.S. 'PRESSURE' ON AREA COUNTRIES

PA151705 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, arrived in Panama a few minutes ago. During his technical stopover at Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport, "TV-2 Reports" obtained statements by Sandinist Commander Arce on the maneuvers of certain officers of the U.S. National Security Council to pressure Panama and other Contadora Group members:

[Begin Arce recording] We have on other occasions referred to U.S. pressure on governments in the region -- in this case on Panama -- in an attempt to remove them from participating in the search for peaceful solutions.

It pleases us to know that -- despite the undeniable power of the United States; its ability to apply economic pressure; and, above all, its dirty policy, because that country tried to link Panama and Mexico with corruption, drug trafficking, and a number of hoaxes to pressure them into changing their policy -- the government of Panama and the other governments have maintained a straight and firm attitude in defense of this Latin American initiative and peace in the Central American region.

COMMENTARY ON USIS ROLE, MISSION AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA150142 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 May 87

["Analysis of Misinformation" commentary by Onofre Guevara]

[Text] Perhaps you have never held a USIS bulletin in your hands but it is certain that if you are over 40 years old, in the past 34 years you have read, seen, and heard more news from these bulletins than from any other source. If you are younger than 35, it is certain you have spent part of your life receiving this misinformation.

USIS, previously known as USIA, began operating on 1 August 1953 as a successor of the International Information Administration [IIA], which had operated as imperialism's main news agency. The reason for this change from the IIA to the USIA was not accidental. Joseph McCarthy, the founder of rabid anticommunism and fanatical reaction, believed that the earlier organization had, quote, communist leanings, unquote. To McCarthy's ideologically Stone-age mentality, there was a need for an agency that would not tolerate the slightest liberal idea and would disseminate propaganda that was in line with the witch-hunt prevailing back then, known as McCarthyism.

The USIA or USIS, which nurtured LA PRENSA's editorial page until June 1986, fulfilled the sinister aspirations of McCarthyism. Now, 34 years later, the USIS has reinforced its ultraconservative ideas to fulfill its propaganda mission against Nicaragua. The so-called Voice of America, its most important means of ideological dissemination, is carrying out radio broadcasting harassment as aggressive as the economic blockade or the military aggression. Apart from having the most powerful transmitter in the world, 4,800 kilowatts, the Voice of America has repeaters in Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize, and other places in the Caribbean.

The USIS, known as the general headquarters of the psychological warfare, had an $888-million budget in 1986, almost as much as Nicaragua's exports for 3 years. It employs 9,300 individuals, makes propaganda programs in 127 countries through 214 information centers and has 135 libraries. The USIS budget, its information centers, its radio stations, etc., is not all. As the general headquarters of the imperialist propaganda, the USIS also participates in government and CIA programs for penetration or infiltration to carry out espionage tasks within political, labor, and social organizations.

In Nicaragua, the USIS has not only carried out its misinformation and slanderous campaign but has helped organize rightist unions and parties. By 1972, it had already organized the so-called free unions which organized the well-known CUS [Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions], and the autonomous unions which later became the CTN [Nicaraguan Workers Federation].

By that year, and perhaps prior to it, the USIS infiltrated the independent unions of the CGT [General Labor Confederation]. Through its own agents and certain newsmen who worked in LA PRENSA then, it offered $250 and $300 per month to several labor leaders to carry out the quote, innocent, unquote, task of supplying information about their organizations' activities allegedly for information not political purposes.

Certain leaders reported that activity then. However, how many did not report it because they accepted the offer? Their number is still unknown. This proved the ties between CUS and CTN leaders and rightist bourgeois sectors became closer and, later on, these groups got together behind a single anti-Sandinist project.

It has not been ruled out that if prior to the revolutionary triumph the USIS was interested in infiltrating the independent labor movement, it is probably more interested in doing so under this revolutionary era. The infiltration and espionage activities go hand in hand with the USIS propaganda activities because they stem from the same imperialist project against Nicaragua, called a democracy program, which is also part of Reagan's program to strengthen the structure for quote, democracy, unquote. With democrats like these, the world does not need fascism to suffer.

ARCE SAYS SANDINISTS WILL TRY AGAIN FOR PEACE

PA150447 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, deputy coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, has announced that Nicaragua will make new efforts in the search for peace in Central America at the forthcoming summit meeting of presidents in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

During a brief stopover in Panama City, Commander Arce said Nicaragua will present a nine-point proposal at the summit meeting scheduled for June. The proposal includes a call for the signing of a nonaggression pact with the United States and a general disarmament agreement, among other things.

Commander Arce said the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups, the Esquipulas meeting, and the peace initiative of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias are viewed by Nicaragua as good grounds for discussion. However, he insisted that every time a possibility for a peaceful solution emerges, the United States sends its emissaries through the region and after this, area countries change their positions.

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH DE LA MADRID

PA150434 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez met yesterday with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. They discussed the situation in Central America and the perspectives for peace in view of the summit of Central American presidents to take place in June in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

In statements to the press after the meeting with De la Madrid, Ramirez accused the counterrevolutionaries of creating a climate of provocation at a time when the "Solid Shield" maneuvers are taking place in Honduras. These maneuvers are the largest the United States has ever carried out in Central America. Ramirez said that during the past 8 days approximately 800 mercenaries tried to enter Nicaragua, supported by international propaganda, but they were repelled by Sandinist fighters who discovered a counterrevolutionary landing strip. The contras' actions have been linked to the joint U.S.-Honduras military maneuvers, Ramirez said, adding that during the last few clashes approximately 30 Somozist mercenaries were killed.

During his visit to Mexico, Ramirez said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace proposal should be analyzed at the summit of Central American presidents in Esquipulas. He said Nicaragua believes the Contadora and Support Group effort is essential to the achievement of peace in Central America, and should be linked to the presidential summit. Ramirez added that Nicaragua does not have serious problems with the Central American countries, but he pointed out that Nicaragua has suffered aggression from the United States because the Reagan administration has given the Somozist counterrevolutionaries a great deal of help.

Meanwhile, Ramirez said if the United States gives Honduras F-5E airplanes that are too old for that country, it may give Nicaragua other planes that would be useless to anyone else. [sentence as heard] He said the Nicaraguan Government has been forced to arm itself because of the aggressive actions the United States has undertaken against the country.

Sergio Ramirez Interview

PA151700 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 May 87 pp 1a, 11a

[Text] Managua, 11 May -- Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado said: Nicaragua will not become a military base of the Soviet Union or any other power. We are willing to put this in writing during our negotiations with the United States.

During in interview with this reporter, Ramirez Mercado pledged that "Nicaragua would conduct its relations with neighboring countries in a stable manner," and added that it is necessary to attain mutual agreements of nonaggression and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other Central American nations.

The Nicaraguan intellectual, who is an author of novels and essays, was questioned about President Daniel Ortega's proposal to renew talks with the U.S. Government to settle the conflict between the two nations. He was also questioned about the Central American country's provisions to participate in the dialogue.

He explained: "We propose a dialogue without conditions, to talk. Our goal is to attain respect for Nicaragua's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence. We are willing to discuss with the United States what it considers its vital interests in Central America."

In his soberly decorated office at the Government Palace, the vice president recalled the frustrated efforts exerted by the Contadora Group and other peace-seeking groups to solve the Central American conflict -- in which Nicaragua plays an important role, according to the United States. He said: "The Manzanillo talks failed (and this is now clear) because the Reagan administration officials were never interested in a negotiated solution. They always emphasized the military solution, through the counterrevolutionary forces, threats, military maneuvers, economic pressure, and military pressure. They thought this was how they would annihilate the Sandinist government."

Nicaragua insists the Contadora Group represents the option to attain peace in Central America. Ramirez Mercado, a charismatic man and one of the Sandinist leaders who has most of the people's sympathy, stated: "(The United States) could not annihilate the Sandinist Government, but everything is quite clear now. We know what the U.S. Government wanted."

Consequently, it would have been contradictory for the Reagan administration to enter into any type of negotiation with Nicaragua, he said.

Ramirez Mercado asked: "Why did the Manzanillo talks (in which Mexico acted as mediator) and all the Contadora Group's negotiations fail? Because the United States, meaning its government, has boycotted all the efforts exerted to attain peace in the region by imposing a provision: The Sandinist government must disappear, and another government should be installed here."

We remind him that one of the U.S. provisions was a dialogue with the contras. "That was their wager. What has happened now? The counterrevolution is being militarily defeated and has lost the war, strategically speaking. This has internally affected the counterrevolution's leadership, and their defeat has caused a crisis."

The official added that recent declarations have clearly shown that the counterrevolutionary leaders were stealing funds and seeking personal benefits, instead of carrying out U.S. political plans."

Ramirez Mercado added that the United States did not find a counterrevolutionary leadership that was trustworthy in either political or military terms. "The contras are in the hands of Coca-cola salesmen who have never been able to function. Their huge salaries and the expenses for their chauffeurs, service personnel, and mansions in Miami are now being reported. However, victories are never reported. Defeat is what has led to these disclosures."

He referred to the Nicaraguan position, which is: "Considering the United States is the main threat to peace in the region, Nicaragua insists that no feasible agreement can be achieved without U.S. participation. Nicaragua maintains its call for bilateral negotiations with the U.S. Administration."

Nicaragua's basic proposals for the achievement of peace in Central America are, "categorical support for the Contadora peace efforts and a halt to the military aid given to forces opposed to the government of any country of the region."

It also demands that the United States immediately fulfill the ruling of the International Court of Justice, which ordered a stop to all military activities against Nicaragua.

He referred to the proposal for bilateral Nicaraguan-U.S. negotiations that will guarantee the resolution of the legitimate security concerns of the states of the region.

"There should be bilateral negotiations with Costa Rica and Honduras to guarantee the security and inviolability of the borders through international observers along those borders; noninterference in the domestic affairs of each state; and respect, for self-determination in economic, political, and social systems."

There should also be control over offensive weapons that threaten the other countries of the region, and there should not be any installations of foreign military bases in Central America. Military exercises with the participation of foreign armies should also be suspended, and there should be limits on the presence of foreign military advisers in the region.

He also said Nicaragua currently allocates 60 percent of its budget to the defense of the revolution and to halt the U.S. aggression through the counterrevolutionaries.

The allocation of those resources for the war "is terrible for a country like Nicaragua."

Ramirez Mercado said the war has distorted and hindered the productive process, and more importantly, it has had an effect on the revolution's programs and the social projects for the people. However, the people are on their feet, aware that the problems of the country stem from the war and the economic blockade; and they are ready to defend their revolution.

FDN SAYS CUBAN FLYING DOWNED SANDINIST MI-17

PA161845 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1701 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The rebel FDN today revealed that the pilot of a Soviet "MI-17" helicopter downed over El Cuartelon, Jinotega Department, on 10 May was a Cuban national. According to a rebel communique dated in the Nicaraguan mountains and released this morning in Tegucigalpa, the pilot was wearing a Sandinist Air Force uniform and documents found in the helicopter identified him as Cuban national Jorge Crisanto Odrian. The communique also reported that the FDN identified the bodies of Nicaraguan Lieutenants Johnny Prudencio, Marcelo Chavez, and Francisco Otoniel.

It was impossible to identify the other two crew members in the helicopter because of the poor state their bodies were in, the rebels said. The FDN reported the recovery of various military supplies from the "MI-17" and said the commando that downed the helicopter staged a hasty retreat from the area because other similar helicopter were firing against the remains of the downed aircraft to eliminate evidence that it was being flown by a Cuban.

COMMITTEE HAILS SECRET RETURN OF CHILEAN EXILES

PA160132 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] In a communique issued Thursday in Havana the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with the Antifascist Resistance [Committee Chileno de Solidaridad con la Resistencia Antifascista] has expressed its utmost solidarity with and support for the decision of former Chilean Communist deputies Mireya Baltra and Julieta Campusano to clandestinely enter Chile to exercise their right to live in their homeland.

The communique notes that this courageous action is in addition to those carried out already by Clodomiro Almeyda, secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party; and (Edgardo Condesa), of the same political party. The declaration signed by the Chilean committee concludes with an appeal to political and social organizations as well as all world personalities to express soaidarity with and fully support this group of chileans who have returned to their country to exercise their inalienable right to live in their homeland.

Commentary on Chilean Struggle

PA161854 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 87

[Report by Gloria Carmona]

[Text] [Carmona] In order to exert their right to live in their homeland, two parliament members from the Communist Party [PC] of Chile recently entered the country in secrecy. They are Mireya Baltra and Julieta Campusano. Because of this, Ana Hernandez, president of the women's commission of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with the Antifascist Resistance, is here in our studios. Ana, could you give more details about this situation?

[Hernandez] Well, among the things I could mention is that for 13 years these comrades suffered the problem of being in exile until yesterday when they said it is enough and returned to the country to pave the way to achieving the goals for which they have struggled all this time. We can also mention some of the statements they have made in Chile. They said they had done this to carry out the inescapable task of the daily struggle, to eliminate forever from national life the terror, crimes, tortures, persecution, imprisonment, internal exile [relegaciones], exile, hunger, and extreme poverty our people are suffering every day. I believe one of the most important things is the fact they will do something to (?end) somehow the oppression our people are suffering, which is truly a milestone in the history of our country.

We...[changes thought] all these measures taken by the government have been openly rejected by all left-wing parties as well as by all organizations. Right now, a huge national and international campaign is being carried out in this regard.

[Carmona] (Humberto Radurillas), president of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity With the Antifascist Resistance, is also here with us in our studios.

[Radurillas] When being interviewed after leaving the tribunal, Baltra and Campusano said nothing will make them take a step backwards in their struggle for democracy and against exile. Therefore, we want to say that when Mireya said they are happy because they know they are right, this means that when intercepted by newsmen, Mireya Baltra said they were happy because they knew -- and we certainly are sure -- we are right. In this case, we must add that we also have the might. We appeal to international solidarity to support these comrades so they can continue the heroic struggle being waged by the Chilean people.

ORLANDO LUGO FONTE OPENS FARMERS CONGRESS

FL151732 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 1655 GMT 15 May 87

[Excerpt] Attended by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, the Seventh Congress of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] has begun. The opening speech was made by Orlando Lugo Fonte, member of the PCC Central Comittee and president of the commission organizing the Seventh ANAP Congress.

[Begin Lugo Fonte recording] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, members of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, foreign delegations accompanying us, delegates, and guests to the Seventh ANAP Congress: This important meeting of Cuban peasants has the privilege of being held 1 year after the historic second national meeting of agricultural-livestock cooperatives where the commander in chief set the fundamental guidelines for our organization's work in the effort to advance on the correct road toward superior methods of production and to strip this sector from the erroneous practices, which compromised the development and consolidation of the cooperative movement.

Comrade Fidel's presence at this congress is once again an incentive for Cuban peasants, who through their representatives at this historic event will debate, analyze, and self-critically evaluate their errors and deficiencies. They will reaffirm their unbreakable commitment to perfect each year the role of the ANAP in the development of the cooperative process, a goal which is necessary to create the indispensable objective conditions for political and ideological work, which we carry out among the peasant masses throughout the country. [end recording]

After Lugo Fojnte's presentation, the debates began. One of the first speeches was given by Elias Gonzalez Castillo, president of the October Revolution agricultural-livestock cooperative in Baragua, Ciego de Avila. [passage omitted]

New Bureau Members Announced

FL172113 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 1955 GMT on 17 May begins live coverage from Havana's Karl Marx Theater of the Seventh ANAP Congress closing ceremony.

As coverage opens, announcer Manolo Ortega describes the event and notes that the new ANAP Executive Bureau was elected late last night and it will be presented shortly.

President Fidel Castro appears and immediately the Cuban national anthem is heard. A young man who identifies himself as Juan Lopez Santos, the youngest ANAP member, says he has been given the honor of reading the list of the new ANAP Executive Bureau. As he reads on, the ones named step forward and are applauded. He says the new bureau is composed of the following: Orlando Lugo Fonte, president; Luis Gonzalez Acosta, first vice president; (Raul Machado Orquiza), vice president; Juan Jose Leon Vega, vice president; and nonprofessional members Manuel Lopez Rodriguez, Oreste Quintano Munoz, Bernardino Lima Reinoso, Benjamin Reyes Leon, Deborah La O Calana, Isabel Falcon Martell, and (Manuel Lopez Aspiazu).

The new ANAP President Orlando Lugo Fonte approaches the podium and begins speaking. Lugo Fonte says that if he had to sum up the work of the Seventh ANAP Congress, he would have to say that "it was characterized by the commitment and will to rectify and improve" their work. He says that will be the contribution of the peasants to the socialist society. He acknowledges the work Jose Ramirez Cruz performed during the last 25 years he was ANAP president. Ramirez receives a standing ovation from the audience.

Lugo Fonte reviews the achievements of farmers but also notes that there have been deficiencies. He says the delegates, accompanied by Castro, analyzed their problems during the congress and expressed their willingness to overcome them. The new ANAP president invites Castro to make the closing remarks. Castro approaches the podium and begins speaking.

HOUSING OFFICIALS DISCUSS GENERAL SITUATION

FL161948 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 May 87

[Interviews with Felix Herrera, Havana City Provincial Housing director; Oscar Alcalde, president of the People's Savings Bank; Juan Jose Leon, vice president of the National Association of Small Farmers, ANAP; and Enrique Anavitarte Losada, director of the National Institute of Housing; by "Wide Angle" host Pedro Martinez Pirez]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Martinez] Felix Herrera Guillen, Havana City Provincial Housing director, is here with us today. Herrera, I would like you to give us some specific information on the housing deficit in the capital city, the insalubrious neighborhoods, the families who live in shelters, and other information that will give us a picture of the housing situation in Havana.

[Herrera, in studio] There are approximately 526,200 houses in Havana. Of these, 54 percent can be described as being in average or poor condition. To this we must add that there are 24,500 buildings of the type we call multi-family buildings. These multi-family buildings form 6,700 small cities [ciudadelas]. We are aware of the fact that there is promiscuity and poor hygiene in these small cities and the standard of living in these areas does not meet our general standards. We also have some 92 insalubrious neighborhoods. The areas that we are talking about are very large and some improvement tasks become very difficult. With the construction of aqueducts and sewers we have been able to somewhat lessen the problems in those areas. We have a very big plan underway to clean up the unwholesome neighborhoods and to handle the problems of the small cities. These problems, plus the fact that many buildings are in very poor condition, have resulted in the sprouting of approximately 12,700 shelters that house more than 51,237 families. We know that there are too many people living in these shelters. This problem is especially noticeable in Central Havana, Old Havana, and Cerros municipalities where the condition of the buildings is poor.

We are undoubtedly facing a very serious problem. Despite the help we are receiving from the mini-brigades -- the construction groups of the past that are now being reorganized -- from the people who are building their own homes, and the construction sector, we have not been able to cover the housing needs in the capital city. For this reason, a plan has been drafted that includes the construction of new homes with the help of the mini-brigades and the construction sector, but also gives top priority status to the maintenance and repair of buildings in Havana. This will be done through the national Institute of Housing.

[Martinez] Is this a plan to repair the houses that are in average or poor condition?

[Herrera] Yes. However, the plan also includes the destruction of all those buildings that are beyond repair. We know that many times it is much cheaper to demolish a building and build a new one than to try and repair the old one.

[Martinez] Herrera, I have heard say that Havana and Santiago de Cuba are two cities on the priority list.

[Herrera] Yes, and in that order.

[Martinez] What will guarantee the success of the plan?

[Herrera] The party and the government have drawn up a plan to strengthen the work being done in the field of construction and repair. They have made the capital city a priority in this plan. Many times we get the feeling that the revolution has not done its best for the capital city. However, the truth of the matter is that the capital city is so big -- it has more than a million inhabitants and more than 500,000 houses -- that the material available is not enough to cover the needs of the maintenance and repair plans.

The amount of material that the state brigades need grows every year. This year, 1987, they need more material than they did last year. We have said that we need approximately 37 million [currency not specified] for maintenance and repair. If we get this money and use it properly, efficiently, and in accordance with the process of rectification which must be a priority for all of us, then we may be able to achieve positive results and this will be a stable starting point for us. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] Oscar Alcalde does not need an introduction for our Cuban viewers. However, I wish to add that we have invited him to this studio, and to the "Wide Angle" program, as president of the People's Savings Bank. The bank plays a very important role in providing financing for new homes according to the new law.

Alcalde, first I would like to know what the People's Savings Bank is doing and what it plans to do to make the promise of the revolution -- a home for every family in our country -- come true.

[Alcalde, in studio] I would like to begin by saying that since the day the People's Savings Bank was created it has been involved in the business of providing financing for homes. In the early years small loans were granted. We gave people loans to help them repair their homes. We have been offering home repair loans since 1980. At that time the law specified that the bank could lend up to 1,500 pesos for repairs. Later, the General Housing Law was implemented and the bank became more involved in the overall process of home financing. This means that the bank is now participating in the distribution of new houses. We accept the houses that are for sale, we draw up the purchase or sale contracts, and we issue title deeds. We also put in the request for the monthly deductions to be made from the buyer's wages. Since the new law was implemented, the bank has drawn up more than 400,000 contracts and issued the title deeds. This may not sound like much to you, but to issue 400,000 title deeds in 18 months involves a lot of hard work. When I bring this matter up at the meetings I attend abroad, especially in the Latin American countries, I can see that they are surprised by the fact that in less than 2 years, the revolution has distributed more than 400,000 title deeds. They are surprised by the fact that more than 400,000 people in Cuba now own their own homes.

[Martinez] Alcalde, we would like to hear a little about the bank's terms of payment.

[Alcalde] As specified in the new law, all our branch offices were issued copies of the procedures to be followed when granting a loan to a person who may wish to build his own home, buy a ready-made unit, or purchase a roof -- this according to Fidel's idea that we must begin to build up. We provide financing for anyone who wishes to purchase a roof and we will also lend him money to buy the material he may need to build his home under that roof. The bank also offers financing to those who wish to purchase the land to build a home on. The law also establishes that loans may be granted to a member of a cooperative who wishes to build his home on cooperative land. Loans are also granted to anyone who may wish to purchase a state-made home. Some of these homes are built by the state or by the mini-brigades. The new law also establishes guidelines for loans requested for home repairs. These may be minor or major repairs. In the past we granted loans for only minor repairs. Today we grant loans for the construction and expansion of homes. You could say that we practically cover the whole field of home financing.

[Martinez] Does every Cuban have a right to request a loan at the People's Savings Bank?

[Alcalde] Anyone who is a member of a cooperative or works at a work center is eligible for a loan. Those who do not work at a work center where payroll deductions are allowed is not eligible for a loan. It has been decided that the request for construction material must be made through the work centers. Therefore, the person requesting the loan must work at one of these centers.

[Martinez] It would be interesting to know the number of loans the bank has approved and whether it plans to expand its number of loans in the next 5 years.

[Alcalde] We cannot measure what will happen in the future by our current number of loans. As I mentioned earlier, in the past we only granted loans for minor home repairs. Despite this, we were lending between 22 and 25 million pesos a year. This is quite a bit of money. We think that once we begin to approve loans for those who wish to build their own homes, to build on a cooperative, or make major repairs to a home -- a plan which is being implemented, then the number of loans will increase and add up to many more million pesos.

[Martinez] Then the number of loans will depend on the delivery of construction material to the people?

[Alcalde] The loans we will approve will be in accordance with the policy followed by the National Institute of Housing. Once the National Institute of Housing begins to deliver the construction material or the finished houses, we will back this by providing the people with the money they will need to purchase the material, the land, or the roof. We will lend them money to buy the construction equipment they may need. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] Leon [ANAP Vice President Juan Jose Leon], we would like to know what role does ANAP play, and what role will it play, in resolving the peasant housing problem? Generally speaking, what role will it play in the rural areas?

[Leon, in office surroundings] The ANAP is a peasant organization. It also encourages the peasant sector to build homes. There are two organizations that back our work, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Sugar Industry. These two ministries provide the construction material for the peasant sector. We use our men and women to build the houses in the rural areas. Since we are on the topic of peasant housing it would be good to recall the situation of the peasant before the triumph of the revolution. I recall that back home [not further specified] when I was a boy, the huts [bohios] were made of guano, palm slabs, and dirt floors. These huts had no toilets, no bathrooms. In his "History Will Absolve Me" Fidel wrote that 63 percent of the homes, before the triumph of the revolution, did not have bathrooms or latrines. That was very true in the rural areas and we remember those days very well. After the triumph of the revolution a great effort has been made to improve housing in the rural areas. The revolution has given as much money as possible. Despite the criminal imperialist blockade, we have tried to improve the housing situation in the rural areas. We have replaced the dirty floors with concrete floors in many houses.

With the creation of the Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives [CPA] a new path was opened. It would have been impossible to build the homes we are building today in the CPA's if we had one peasant living here and another one over there. It would not have been possible. It is also vey difficult to convince a peasant who is the victim of centuries of backwardness, who is the result of his grandfather or father's isolation, to move to a peasant town. However, we have been able to get some of those peasants to move. As you know, Martinez, 62 percent of the land is divided into cooperatives and 38 percent is in private hands. Since 1981 we have been working on building new peasant towns in the cooperatives. More than 25,000 homes have been built and 11,819 of these are modest homes. By this we mean that the cooperative builds a house with a concrete floor, concrete or firbocement roof, and stucco walls. A house you could find anywhere in the city. We have also built approximately 25,000 rustic homes. A rustic home is one that has a concrete floor, zinc roof, and wooden walls. We also see many houses that are easy to move. These are houses that the peasant brought down from his farm and set it up in the cooperative while a better house is being built. We have supplied approximately 4,000 of that type of home.

As you can see, these are 25,000 homes that allow the peasant family to live with the comforts of a modern life. We are not only giving them housing, we also brought electricity to more than 30,000 homes. Once electricity is brought to these homes they can have a television, a radio, the woman can exchange her bucket for a washing machine, and the peasant family begins to enjoy certain luxuries. For those peasants who cannot get a loan and who do not have the money to build their own home, the State will provide them with the money they need. This is a 15-year loan at a 4 percent yearly interest rate. This gives many members of a cooperative the chance to have their own home. At this moment we are working with the ministries to settle peasants in the areas where we have houses. The state has made a very big effort to supply us with material and all this construction material that the state gives us is used to build homes in the rural areas. We view the cooperative system as the future of the peasant home.

As I said earlier, it is impossible to build an isolated home for each peasant because the revolution does not have them money to do this. However, we can provide the peasant with a home in the peasant towns we are building in the cooperatives. We may not be able to get a house ready for all of them at this moment, but little by little we can do it. We know that the housing problem is one of the serious problems that the revolution is facing. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] This segment of the "Wide Angle" program on housing is brought to you from the headquarters of the National Institute of Housing in Havana where we talked with the director of the institute, Enrique Anavitarte Losada. Anavitarte explains the institute's plans for the next few years to resolve the acute housing deficit in Cuba.

[Anavitarte] As you just mentioned Martinez, many comrades have already talked about the housing situation we found after the triumph of the revolution. I think that it is important to underscore that it was a dramatic situation. At that time the country needed approximately 900,000 houses in order to cover its housing deficit. In January 1959 we had less than 1.6 million homes and we can say that currently we have approximately 2.6 million homes. This means that we have built more than a million homes since the triumph of the revolution.

If we were to study the country's growth situation -- we had some 6 million inhabitants in 1959 and today we have 10 million inhabitants -- we would see that something has been done to cover the housing deficit. However, it is still not enough to cover the housing needs of our people. The plan that we have drafted is aimed at building, by the year 2,000, more than 1.5 million homes. It also includes the repair of 400,000 homes; these would be substantial repairs. Maintenance is something else. With these minor and major repairs and the new constructions we would increase the number of homes to approximately 2 million. This means that by the year 2,000, 87 percent of the Cuban families will be living in decent good quality homes. We are also thinking about increasing our work in the fields of maintenance and repair. Last year we created the enterprises that are responsible for providing services and maintenance. This was one way of facing the maintenance problem. We already have 27 such enterprises throughout the country. We also plan to allot approximately 150 million pesos, through the year 2,000, to the enterprises responsible for maintenance.

To give you an example of how this works, I will tell you that in 1987 the housing plan includes the construction of 40,000 state-built homes and 7,000 cooperative-built homes. This adds up to 47,000 homes. This represents a 56 percent growth when compared to 1986. This represents a healthy growth in the housing area. Now that the country's leadership has adopted measures to reorganize the mini-brigades, and many workers have joined the mini-brigade plan, the number of houses will increase in 1987. The State has also decided to back the mini-brigades with money, material, and equipment. The State has also allotted 75 million pesos to the maintenance and repair of homes. This will represent 40 percent of our growth index. If we compare this year's growth to last year's growth we will see that leaders' political determination is becoming a reality and the construction and repair of homes has become a priority in the country. This will help resolve an acute problem of our people.

The decision to resolve the housing problem calls for the help and participation of everyone. Everyone must help build homes just like the mini-brigades are doing. Everyone must help in the repair and maintenance work so that we can resolve the problem. I think that we can do it, and we are determined to do it. [passage omitted]

SOVIET MINISTER VISITS MATANZAS OIL COMPLEX

FL162312 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Vladimir Chirskov, Soviet minister for the construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, has visited the facilities of the Matanzas port oil complex which will house a super tanker terminal, the national crude and supply base for thermoelectric power plants and other facilities.

CARICOM APPROVES CARIBBEAN EXPORT BANK

FL161448 Bridgetown CANA in English 1217 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, May 16, CANA -- Caribbean Community finance ministers have formally approved the establishment of a Caribbean Export Credit Facility, says the president of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). William Demas made the announcement after the conclusion of a meeting of the CDB Board of Governors, made up mostly of finance, economics, and planning ministers.

Demas told reporters that during an informal meeting the finance ministers agreed on the actual shape and form of the facility which has been renamed the Caribbean Export Bank (CXB) and will be located at the CDB's headquarters in Barbados. He said the CDB and the Caricom Secretariat are now expected to draw up a formal legal agreement to pave the way for establishment of the CXB, which is designed to provide pre- and post-shipment credit for Caricom and extra-regional exports.

He described the proposed bank, to be set up with technical assistance from Colombia, as a facility which has been badly missing.

BAHAMAS

CANDIDATE NOMINATION DETAILS ANNOUNCED

FL141842 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Nomination date is known now; it is supposed to be May 22 and candidates for the elections will be able to be nominated. They will have to turn in their nomination papers and deposits between 0900 and noon on May 22.

PINDLING FEARS VIOLENCE DURING ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN

FL170117 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 16, CANA -- Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has expressed fears about violence during the campaign leading up to the June 19 general election. In his first campaign speech in New Providence -- the island which hosts the nation's capital -- Pindling told supports of his ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP): I believe it's going to get dangerous. He said that he saw the first signs of frustration among opposition Free National Movement (FNM) supporters during a PLP rally in the West End constituency last Wednesday night.

About half a mile from the rally site he said about 25 fellows came out with their placards, and they were so upset, trying to stop almost 2,000 down the road. A couple of them got arrested for trying to throw bottles, and this is only the first week of the campaign. I would have expected frustration at about the third week of the campaign, but frustration has already set in.

Pindling asked his supporters to stay cool and assured them that everything is going to be all right. Opposition spokesmen have denied Pindling's charge of a disturbance, and said a check with police reported no arrests. FNM candidate Lindy Russell said his party does "not intend to have any violence at all in this campaign".

Pindling is seeking his sixth consecutive term in office.

ST LUCIA

LABOR PARTY'S HUNTE WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH COMPTON

FL152011 Bridgetown CANA in English 1617 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 15, CANA -- St Lucian opposition leader, Julian Hunte, says his St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) will not be going out of its way to bring down Prime Minister John Compton's government with its slender one-seat majority in parliament. That is not our role at this point in time, Hunte told CANA here. Our situation is that the country cannot afford at this point in time and we continue to work assidiously in the interest of the nation.

The St Lucian people, he said, had twice in less than a month in general elections given Comptons' United Workers Party (UWP) nine parliamentary seats and the SLP's eight. Compton called the second election seeking a bigger mandate.

However, Hunte, in Jamaica for a meeting of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, made clear that the SLP's wish to avoid a third general election within a short period of time was not a license for Compton's administration to do as it pleased. While we are committed to working in the best interest of St Lucia, the ball is in the court of the government. A lot will depend on whether there is room for greater cooperation and support of the opposition, he said. Our interest is that St Lucia gets the best it can out of the existing situation.

Hunte said the election result indicated that the SLP was on the up after the leadership crisis that led to the fall of the administration it formed in 1979. There is an election in five years time and we will be looking forward to that, he said.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

OPPOSITION PARTIES PROTEST CONTROL OF MEDIA

FL161454 Bridgetown CANA in English 1343 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, May 16, CANA -- Three opposition parties have issued an unprecedented joint statement condemning directives on news reporting issued a week ago to the state-owned radio station by new minister of Information Parnell Campbell. On May 1 -- the day he took office -- Campbell issued a series of policy-directives, which virtually rules out editing of government releases and, among other things, empowers only the manager to decide what opposition material should be broadcast.

The parliamentary opposition St Vincent Labour Party, the United People's Movement (UPM) and the Movement for National Unity (MNU) said they were concerned about the highhanded interference by Campbell in the affairs of the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC).

The parties regarded the directives as an attempt to intimidate the journalists at the radio station and to restrict their freedom to identify what was newsworthy.

The three parties said the measures would starve the general public of views and opinions that were contrary to those of the government and cast the stations manager in the role of a censor of all political news items that did not emanate from the government. The opposition parties viewed the situation as a very grave assault on freedom of the press in St Vincent and the Grenadines." [quotation mark as received]

They called on government to restore to the staff, the right to carry out their duties in a professional manner free from political harassment and intimidation, and demanded that the board of the NBC resist unwarranted ministerial inferference and reject attempts to belittle its role. The directives have also been condemned by the St Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association.

Campbell, who is also attorney general, said the measures were designed to correct "certain attitudes" which had developed within the radio station. He had been highly critical of the station in the campaign leading up to his election to Parliament last February.

INFORMATION MINISTER ANNOUNCES RADIO GUIDELINES

FL091614 Bridgetown CANA in English 1721 GMT 8 May 87

[By Michael Findlay]

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, May 8, CANA -- New Information Minister Parnel Campbell announced new editorial and policy directives to bring the government-owned radio station into line. Campbell was a strong critic of Radio 705 during the campaign leading up his election to parliament last February, accusing it of trying to sabotage the government. Appointed to the cabinet just last week, Campbell, who is also Attorney General, moved swiftly to order the station not to edit government releases and how to handle "opposition propaganda."

In his first television address to the nation, Campbell said the directives were "in response to certain attitudes which had developed in the radio station, run by the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC). The NBC, a statutory corporation, was set up last July after the station had been operated since its inception as a civil service department. Campbell said that the station had in the past claimed the right to edit releases from government ministers including the prime minister. He said, however, he had now instructed the station that government releases should not be edited without the specific and unambiguous content of the person or authority issuing the release.

Campbell added that government releases must be broadcast in their entirety unless an abridgement had been consented to by the person or authority issuing the release, but the station was empowered to correct typographical errors and errors of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Campbell said the radio station was permitted to identify government releases with particulars of the person or authority from whom the releases emanated. He said the directives had allowed for some journalistic flexibility by the station by permitting the staff to write the headlines to government releases while ensuring that they did not distort or misplace the emphasis intended in the release. The directives also gave the manager of the radio station the power to decide on the prominence, position and frequency of broadcast but at the same time empowered the minister reserved the right to request repetition as deemed fit.

The directives also curtailed the coverage of news from opposition parties, especially those not represented in parliament and which enjoyed only minimal electoral support. Campbell said he had observed that opposition propaganda appeared to have enjoyed instant and unlimited access to the airwaves through the radio station, and expressed concern that most of the stations news reporters and editors seemed to feel that the station should operate as an opposition thoroughfare.

Campbell said while his ministry was committed to the furtherance of democracy in the country, it intended to ensure that unfair political advantage was not taken by those who would seek to cunningly exploit the democratic instincts of the government. He said he made it clear in the directives that the station must understand that there was only one official opposition party in the country -- the St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), although it did mean that material from other opposition parties should be broadcast.

Campbell directed that all programme material concerning or sponsored by or emanating from political or quasi-political organisations shall not be broadcast without the sanction of the station's manager whose decision on any matter in dispute shall not be challenged by any subordinate member of staff. Campbell said in this regard the manager of the station must satisfy himself that the programme material of the opposition was genuinely newsworthy, that any person or authority subjected in the item to implied or expressed criticism be given ample opportunity to respond to such criticism so that the criticism and response be broadcast on the same occasion unless the circumstances render it impracticable and that in any event opposition releases should be within the laws of libel.

Radio 705 was also given guidelines on how to refer to individuals in news items. Campbell said that he and others had been trying for some time without success to persuade the radio station staff to use words such as Mr, Mrs, Miss, honourable, president, prime minister and the like when referring to persons, and that as a result he found it necessary to issue a policy directive to the effect. According to Campbell, one directive specified that under no circumstances should a woman's surname only be used. He said I think many people have been appalled over the years to hear women being referred to by their bare surnames...I have put a stop to that.

Campbell quoted a paragraph from one of the directives members of parliament shall be referred to as the honourable in the introduction section of a broadcast and thereafter as Mr or Mrs or Miss or Senator. For example an item about the leader of the opposition should begin thus leader of the opposition, The Honourable Vincent Beache has...thereafter he may be referred to as Mr Beache.

Similarly an item about the prime minister may begin Prime Minister The Right Honourable James F. Mitchell has...thereafter he may be referred to as Prime Minister Mitchell or Mr. Prime Minister or The Prime Minister or Mr. Mitchell, but never as plain Mitchell.

Another directive allows for free broadcast of the first 60 words of death announcements and stipulates that such announcements should be broadcast three times each week day, on Sundays and at additional times as the circumstaces required. [words indistinct] that the announcements must be without blemish and that the announcements must be immediately followed by advertisement or music or other programme material of a reasonably relaxing tone. Campbell said he regarded the directives as reasonable.

We have a responsibility to continue to run a very good radio service, but let us not spoil the radio service by either excessively anti-government bias or by basic disrespect for the living and for the dead.

Campbell said that attempts were being made to acquire a new transmitter for the station and to construct other facilities.

He promised to exercise his responsibility as minister of information quite fairly but firmly.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

COMMISSION APPOINTED TO REVIEW CONSTITUTION

FL161354 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] In Port of Spain, Trinidad, the government of Prime Minister Robinson Friday [15 May] announced the appointment of a seven-member commission to review the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution and recommend possible changes. The action came as the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction backed away from an earlier attempt to ram through a constitutional amendment in the House of Representatives where it holds the commanding 33 to 3 majority over the opposition Peoples' National Movement.

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